DAY, JANUARY &

Recruit police from camps — Lebanon

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon will propose at an Arab interior ministers' meeting which opens Wednesday in Tunis that new members of the Palestinian police be recruited in refugee camps on its territory, officials said Tuesday. According to the proposal, the new recruits would be chosen among supporters of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat and could take with them medium and light weapons which still abound in Lebanon's Palestinian refugee camps. Their transfer to the autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho would "ease the cost of training new recruits." one official say! Lebanese Interior autonomous regions of Gaza and Jericho would "ease the cost of training new recruits," one official said. Lebanese Interior Minister Michel Murr has prepared a motion inviting "the Palestinian self-rule authority to recruit hundreds of trained Palestinians, who are present in refugee camps in Lebanon," the official said. Informed sources here said the Lebanese proposal was aimed at reducing the numbers of Mr. Arafat's armed loyalists in Lebanon, where support for the PLO chief has widely decreased since he signed autonomy accords with Israel last year.

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## Peace process in crisis, PLO warns at Cairo talks

Settlements, killing of policemen, prisoners key issues

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) warned Tuesday that the peace process was in crisis as Israel and the Palestinians opened self-rule talks overshadowed by the expansion of Jewish settlements and the killing of three

PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres headed their delegations to the new round of talks aimed at expanding Palestinian selfrule on the West Bank.

Dr. Shaath said that major problems facing the peace process included settlement building on the West Bank, Israel's ban on PLO activities in East Jerusalem and the fate of 6,000 Palestinian pris-

He spoke of a "sense of crisis" and accused the Israeli army of a "flagrant" violation of the self-rule accords for crossing into Gaza on Monday night and killing three policemen in a clash which each side blamed on the

other (see separate story). Mr. Peres denied there was a violation and refused to discuss the settlements at the

The self-rule accord called for settlements to be taken up at a later stage in negotiations and expansion at existing settlements would continue, he

Israel has decided yea-

## ilaterally not to add any new

Greek premier to

visit Syria, Jordan

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ATHENS (AFP) - Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou leaves W....esday for visits to Syria and Jordan to discuss the Middle East peace process; officials said Tuesday. He will open talks Wednesday in Damascus with President Hafez Al Assad, then head to Amman on Friday to meet with King Hussein, an official statement

said, Mr. Papandreon will be accompanied by Foreign Minister Carolos Papoulias, Minister of the Merchant Marine George Katsifaras and Health Minister Dimitris Kremastinos, who is also his personal doctor. The Greek prime minister was forced to postpone a trip to Damascus last October due to bad

Palestinians clash in West Bank

NABLUS, occupied West

weather.

Bank (AFP) — Scuffles broke out Tuesday between supporters of Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction and residents of a Palestinian refugee camp on the occupied West Bank during Fatch anniversary celebrations. Palestinian officials said residents of the Balata camp near Nablus set fire to the car of Marwan Bargouti, Fatch secretarygeneral for the West Bank. Two people were lightly injured in subsequent clashes between Mr. Bargouti's followers and Balata residents.

#### Kuwait cancels debts of Egypt, Syria

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) -The Kuwaiti parliament Tuesday cancelled debts of some \$2.88 billion owed by Egypt and Syria, in recogni-tion of their role in the 1991 Gulf war which ousted Iraqi troops from the emirate, the official news agency KUNA reported. Egypt's debt 10 Kuwait amounted to \$2.75 billion and Syria's was \$130 million, KUNA said.

## Quayle in hospital

INDIANAPOLIS (R) — Former U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle has been admit-ted to hospital suffering from appendicing and will probably undergo surgery this week, his spokeswomm said on Tuesday, Mr. Quayle, 47, cutered Indiana University Medical Centre on Monday afternoon.

### Palestinian police arrest 10 Israeli soldiers in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police Tuesday arrested 10 Israeli soldiers in civilian clothes near Khan

Younes in the autonomous Gaza Strip.
"We captured 10 Israeli soldiers wearing civilian clothes and transferred them to the (joint) liaison committee's offices in Khan Younes," said Palestinian police chief

The soldiers were later handed over to the Israeli authorities, he said, without giving further details. Witnesses said the soldiers probably belonged to a special army undercover unit, whose members wear civilian clothes or traditional Palestinian dress.

An army spokesman was unable to confirm the report. Israeli Tourism Minister Uzi Baram Tuesday decided not to visit Jericho after the Palestinian authorities refused to allow his bodyguards to accompany him there.

Mr. Baram was due to meet Palestinian tour operators and hotebers to discuss tourism projects in the region.

"The Palestinian police told us they refused to let my bodyguards enter Jericho with me and that they would be

responsible for my security," Mr. Baram said at the entrance to the self-rule enclave. A bus provided by the Israeli tourism ministry which was carrying Mr. Baram along with Israeli tour operators, hoteliers and businessmen later returned to Jerusalem. Israeli television said the Palestinian decision was prompted by fears of a clash between the minister's bodyguards and Palestinian police.

tween building new settle-ments and thickening the existing ones. We cannot stop he said,

His government Tuesday authorised the construction of 260 homes at the Ephrat settlement on the West Bank, after Palestinian and leftwing Jewish protests led it to

Tuesday called for vengeance

for the killing of three Gaza

policemen by Israeli soldiers, as commanders on both sides

agreed to step up coordina-

tion to avoid any repeat.

It was the bloodiest clash

between Israel and the

Palestinian National Author-

ity (PNA) police since self-

rule was launched in the

Gaza Strip and Jericho last

Protestors shook their fists

and chanted "vengeance"

during the funeral for the

PNA Chairman Yasser

May.

nolicemen.

settlements in the West Bank and Gaza. We distinguish be-Israeb officials said a committee headed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin gave. the green light for the homes

to be built next to the Ephrat

settlement, but did not set a

date for work to begin. Saeb Erakat, a member of the Palestinian National Authority, said the govern-

Mourners demand vengeance

starting clash that killed 3 policemen

light up the road which will

than us cannot intimidate us

Those who are stronger

Israel and the PNA never-

theless decided to step up

coordination to avoid such

incidents from happening

again during a meeting be-

tween the commander of

Israel's sontbern region

General Shaul Mofaz and

Palestinian police chief Nas-

ser Yussef, Israeli military

while denied that Palestinians

The Israeli army mean-

lead to Jerusalem."

with their weapons."

at PNA policemen's funeral

Israel, PLO accuse each other of

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — will pursue the struggle and Palestinian monraers on that their noble blood will

ment's decision Monday to halt work at a site further away did not go far enough because it allowed the settlers to huild at another site.

"Mr. Rabin can't solve the problem by moving bulldozers from one billtop to another," Dr. Erakat said. "Rabin has to make clear, and the Israeli people must know, it's either settlements

Mr. Rabin told the Israeli parliament (Knesset) Mon-day that "at no price will we continue to build at Givat Hatamar," referring to the hill near Ephrat where bulldozers have been working for more than a week.

Bnt the construction work could be transferred to areas in the immediate vicinity of Ephrat, instead of the hill.

"We will remain committed to building in the immediate neigbbonrbood of Ephrat," be said. Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said

while he supported the government compromise over Ephrat be worried it would set a precedent Palestinians would use to fight further Palestinian National Au-

thority member Zakariya Al Agha, in charge of housing in self-rule areas, said Israel's decision gave official sanction to further settlement huilding before self-rule was expanded in the West Bank (Continued on page 12)

that effect had turned ont to

Yossef Bagad, a deputy

from the right-wing Moledet

party, had told parliament

that a soldier had been kid-

napped in Arah East Jeru-

But an army spokesman said: "No soldier has dis-appeared."

ler had telephoned the Ara-

bic service of Israel radio and

announced on behalf of the

Islamic Resistance Move-

ment, (Hamas), that an Israeli soldier bad been kid-

But the caller had not pro-

napped in Jerusalem.

He said an unidentified cal-

be false.

salem.

Senate endorses '95 draft budget

hold Palestinian flags and protest against works to build a

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Tuesday unanimously endorsed the 1995 draft budget of JD 1.674 hillion after hearing a report hy its Finance Committee's rapporteur, Kamal Shaer, approv-ing of the draft and 13 senators' remarks on the draft

The 30 senators present approved the draft hudget during a session which was attended by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali and cahinet members; 10 senators were absent.

Thanking the Senate for its approval of the draft budget, Dr. Majali said that since 1990 Jordan bad been facing pressures which cost the country at least 60 per cent of its annual income.

Bnt be said that despite the difficulties, the Kingdom bad been able to achieve economic growth and contain infla-

income-generating projects.

Jordan, he added, is still facing the challenges of the economic reform programme and foreign debts.

Dr. Mājali listed five elements which be said are being utilised to help the country overcome economic difficul-The first is represented in

increasing savings for investments either through the commercial hanks or directly in income-generating projects, he said. Secondly, he said, there

will be more reliance on adapting the educational process to the requirements of the labour market. The government is totally

in agreement with the Finance Committee that more strenuous efforts would be made towards preparing and training Jordanian workforce to take up jobs required by the local labour market. Dr. Majali said more attention will be given to vocational

(Continued on page 3)

## tion and lay the ground for **Abdul Meguid: No** early Arab summit

KUWAIT (R) — Arah League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said in remarks published on Tuesday there was no early pros-pect of holding the first full Arab summit in four years, largely because of a rift dat-ing back to the Gulf crisis. Dr. Abdul Meguid, on a Guif tour aimed at fostering Arab unity, added that 14 Arab states had told him they

wanted some form of reconciliation but a summit was not immediately in prospect, he told Al Anha newspaper in an interview. "There must be preparations

for an Arab summit so it can achieve its goals, and the circumstances of an Arah summit are not existing," he was quoted as saying. "Holding an Arah summit is a matter that is not currently envisaged."

The secretary general told reporters in Cairo on Mon-day he was optimistic that a summit would take place after a meeting of leaders of Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia in Alexandria last week.

He arrived in Kuwait later that day for three days of talks before visiting Saudi Arabia and the United Arah

Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah said after talks with Dr. Abdul Meguid that bolding meetings to end Arah rifts dating hack to the Gulf crisis was pointless nuless Iraq, which occupied the emirate for seven months,

There will be no meaning ciliation ... until Iraq transforms all mandates and artitions into a reality," the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) quoted the minister as saying.

Such a meeting "will not see the light" before full Iraqi compliance with resolutions taken against Baghdad over its 1990-91 occupation of Kuwait, Sheikh Sahah said. It was not clear whether he was referring to a summit or a

lower-level meeting.
Dr. Abdul Meguid met the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sahah, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sahah on Tues-

day.
"Arah reconciliation is tightly tied to Iraq's adherence to the international resolutions," Dr. Ahdul Meguid told KUNA.

The 22 members of the Cairo-hased organisation remain at odds over the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. While most Arah countries sent troops to support the U.S.led alliance to liberate the emirate, others refused to take part.

The last league summit was held in August 1990 wheo Iraq invaded Kuwait. That summit in Cairo witnessed the deepest split in Arah ranks since the league was established in March 1945.

## Stage set for cabinet change

new fence around the Jewish settlement of Ariel on Tuesday

which they say passes over their land (AFP photo)

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the final approval of the 1995 fiscal budget by the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Tuesday, the ground is set for a new executive team that would move the country beyond the "transition stage" of forging peace with Israel to rehabilitating the Kingdom's relations with the Arah World as well as consolidating confidence in the country's economy and democratie marcb.

Although no official confirmation of a change of government was available Tuesday, politicians close to the decision-making circles were sure that Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali would render his government's resignation "soon" to allow for the formation of a Parliament-based Cabinet under a new prime minister.

Sources close to Dr. Majali's government also predicted that it would be on its way out "sooner rather than\_ later", hut said that no resignation had been handed in as of Tuesday.

Other political sources confirmed that deputies, senators and politicians were being approached by Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the chief of Royal Court tipped to be the

next prime minister, with an eye to forming a Parliamentbased government that is not likely to include members of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) hut will work to establish a "positive dialogue" with the influential Islamist

The task of the new government, according to wellinformed analysts and sources, will be to concentrate its efforts on bringing the country out of the "dilemma of transition" after with Israel, as one source put it, to a more "stable" situation on all fronts but most importantly on the internal and Arab levels.

"The most important task is to change the landscape,' said one source. "We need a new landscape where Jordanians start to feel that they can step forward and are not running around in circles," be said. "What it means is that we have to start defining the path of Jordan's future which will take into account our strategic relationship with Israel hnt balance that relationship against the new realities in the Arab World."

The team of ministers which will be chosen for this difficult task, according to sources, will have to meet a

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan to try 4 suspects forms all mandates and articles in these (U.N.) resolutions in these (U.N.) resolutions in the design of the desig

AMMAN (R) - Four mili- seized in a crackdown on tants will stand trial for attacking a Jordanian intelligence office, apparently to avenge death sentences against other militants, an official said on Tuesday.

"The prosecutor general is wrapping up their case and he will soon send it to the State Security Court," one official told Reuters. He gave no

A Jordanian sergeant guarding the intelligence office in the teeming Bequa Palestinian refugee camp was injured a week ago when one of the suspects was alleged to have opened fire with an automane rifle.

"They have told interrogators that they carried out the attack as a reaction against the death sentences that were passed on the "Afghao" Jordanians by the State Security Court last month," he said.

On Dec. 21, the court sentenced to death 11 people accused of a plot to destabilise the Kingdom, including a series of bombings and planned assassinations.

Most of the convicted men are Jordanians of Palestinian origin living in Bequa who fought in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union. They were radicals last January. The camp has more than 125,000 residents, making it the largest of 11 refugee camps across Jordan.

The four suspects reenacted the attack in the presence of the prosecutor general on Sunday, the official said.

One suspect, Yousef Ahmad Salameh, 22, is a corporal in the Ammanbased units of the Palestine Liheration Organisation's (PLO) Palestine Liberation Army, he said. All were below 30 years of age.

Last month's sentences will antomatically be appealed to a higher court. King Hussein has commuted all previous death sentences for polincal

Arah states, like Egypt and Algeria, accuse veterans of the Afghan war that toppled the Soviet-hacked Kahul government in 1992 of trying to overthrow their own governmeots.

Three of those sentenced to hang were tried in absentia and remain at large. Three others had death sentences commuted to life terms. Four received sentences from 7-1/2. to 20 years, while seven men were acquitted.

### Arafat told mourners: "We had kidnapped one of its (Continued on page 2) swear to the martyrs that we soldiers, saying a claim to Russian assault on

officials said.

Tuesday in an apparent effort to protect some 60 tanks stranded in a failed ground offensive against the Chechen capital.

Streets littered with bodies and charred tanks echoed with blasts from Russian cannons, mortars and rockets and return fire from the

On the road to the northwest, a main artery of the Russian attack, the wrecks of at least 15 Russian tanks and smoured vehicles were strewn along the wayside. The bodies of some 30 Russian

soldiers lay nearby.
Three artillery shells fell close to the presidential palace, still in the hands of the Chechens, forcing dozens of Chechen fighters to run for

COVET. Another shell hit the roof, taking out the pole from which the red, white and green Chechen flag had flut-

Russian plane was seen dropping two bombs on Grozny or its suburbs. At dawn, two planes dropped four bombs over the town, which was also shelled overnight.

began a fierce assault to seize Grozny itself, but the vastly outgunned Chechens have

The Interfax news agency reported Tuesday from Moscow that Russian forces have abandoned the centre of Grozny in ruins, leaving about 100 bodies in the streets.

centre districts. Some opened fire on Rus-

weeks of Russian air raids.

onts were unknown. In a television appearance on Monday, he called for fresh

Grozny fizzling out GROZNY (Agencies) tered defiantly atop the 11- 187 injured since Russian storey building. Russian warplanes and artil-lery pounded Chechenya An hour later, a high-flying

> Russia intervened in Chechenya, a Caucasus republic of some 1.3 million people, on Dec. 11 to crush a three-year-old independence drive by the Chechens, a

fiercely proud people who hate the Russians. On Saturday, the Russians managed to hold on to the

The last official toll, issued

on Dec. 31, said 61 Russian

soldiers had been killed and

troops began their interven-An AFP reporter saw

around 30 Russian prisoners in the basement of the former KGB building. Chechen fighters moved unimpeded through city-

sian troops from behind trees or kiosks. Others, clutching their weapons, advanced warily along streets with downed trolley-bus lines and adjacent buildings blackened and pulverised by three Smoke was seen rising

from near President Dzhokar Dudayev's concrete palace. Mr. Dudayev's whereabtalks to end the Russian push on Grozny and suggested that Russian soldiers held prisooer could otherwise be killed.

(Continued on page 3)

## 2 Home & Middle East News

## British businessmen expect Jordan to benefit from European tourism

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - More than half of British businesses expect Jordan to benefit from European tourism in the wake of the elimination of tension and uncertainty following the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October, a survey conducted hy a Condon-hased group has

The survey, carried out by Middle East Consultants, found that 56 per cent of British businessmen also expect new business opportunities arising in the Levant in an era of peace.

The poll was conducted among more than 200 participants in a "Europe and the Arah World" conference held under the Arab League umbrella in London in December, Middle East Consultants said a release sent to the Jordan Times.

James Reeve of the re-search division of the British consultants was quoted as saying in the release: "There is clearly confidence that there will be real business resulting from the peace process and British companies are well placed to take advantage of this."

The survey found 52 per

cent of those polled believed that Jordan stood to benefit most from increased European tourism, followed by the West Bank (24 per cent), Syria (eight per cent) and

Lebanon (six per cent). More than two-thirds of those polled (70 per cent) saw the West Bank as offering better husiness prospects than the Gaza Strip following the implementation of Palestinian antonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.

Similarly, 82 per cent said they expected Beirut, the Lebanese capital, fail to regain its pre-civil crisis status as the financial hub of the Arah World in 1995, the survey results said.

More than half of those polled (54 per cent) also expected oil prices to weaken in 1995, and 78 per cent predicted privatisation moves in the oil-rich Gulf states would fail to take off.

In North Africa, 32 per cent of the target audience said fewer benefits could be expected from privatisation in Morocco, which has adopted a sweeping liberalisation programme, but 50 per cent believed that British companies stood to gain from privatisation in Tunisia. Following is a summary of the survey results as provided by Middle East Consultants:

Question: Do you think political unrest in Algeria is likely to affect other North African markets in 1995? Answer: Yes: 32 per cent: No: 68 per cent On Do you expect privatisa-tion in Morocco to benefit

A: Yes: 32 per cent; No: 68

per cent Q: Do you expect privatisation in Tunisia to benefit your business in the coming year?
A: Yes: 50 per cent; No: 50

per cent Q: Will Enropean grants Q: Will Enropean grants (Medinvest) encourage you to establish a joint venture in North Africa in 1995? A: Yes: 18 per cent; No: 82

The Levant

Q: Do you think the peace process will generate business opportunities for your company in 1995? A: Yes: 56 per cent; No: 44

per cent Q: Will Gaza or the West Bank offer most business

A: Yes: 30 per cent; No: 70

per cent Q: Do you see Beirut regaining its former status as the financial centre of the Arab World in the year ahead? A: Yes: 18 per cent; No: 82

On Which of the following is likely to attract, a growing share of European tourism in

A: Jordan: 52 per cent; Syria: 18 per cent; Lebanon: 6 per cent; West Bank 24 per cent

The Gulf

Q: Do you expect oil prices to strengthen or weaken in the coming year? Weaken: 54 per cent Q: Will privatisation become a major trend in the Gulf in 1995?

A: Yes: 22 per cent; No: 78 Q: Are you planning joint ventures in the Gulf in the coming year?
A: Yes: 26 per cent; No: 74

Q: Do you consider Guif security to be under threat in A: Yes: 16 per cent: No: 84

### Mourners demand revenge

(Continued from page 1) vided any proof in support of his claim.

"The army has carried out checks and is now in a position to deny this claim," the spokesman said.

In Damasens, Hamas vowed on Tuesday to avenge the killing of the three Palestinian.

The group, which is opposed to the Israeli-PLO self-rule deal, said in a statement faxed to the offices of an international news agency in Damascus that it considered the slain policemen as 'Hamas martyrs."

Palestinian officials denied their police fired the first shots in Monday's attack, and Israeli media speculation on Tuesday focused on the possibility they came from a third source — perhaps anti-peace activists who fired from a neighbouring orchard.

Ahmad Tibi, an adviser to Mr. Arafat, said one of the dead policeman was shot while asleep in his bed.

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.N. soldiers and civilian

staff prepared Tuesday to

Senior U.N. officials said

personnel will leave the

sprawling headquarters and

their checkpoints on Jan. 15

to retrench to the port and

the airport of the embattled

amid further fighting in

southern Mogadisha between

The announcement came

"The Palestinian police didn't fire first on the Israeli soldiers," Dr. Tibi told Israel

Television. "One of the Palestinian police was shot while sleeping in his bed and his body was found in the

The Israeli army colonel said one policeman surrendered when the Israelis asked that they come out of the house. But he said a second one came out shouting "Allahu Akhbar" and firing. This policeman was shot dead.

According to the Israeli army report on Monday's attack, suipers late on Mon-day opened fire on an Israeli command-car on patrol near the Erez crossing, prompting the soldiers to seek back-up and launch a chase inside

The soldiers later closed in on a house where they believed the gunmen were hid-ing, and ordered in English and Arabic those inside to

One Palestinian policeman did give himself up, but the others opened fire, and the Israeli soldiers attacked the house, hurling a grenade in-side and spraying it with bul-

U.N. to quit Mogadishu



FAMILY OF VICTIM: Mourning Palestinian women try to comfort 22-year-old Amai after she was told that her husband Nasri Hurelmi, 34, was shot dead by Israell troops along with fellow activist Raed Shubat in a firefight south of Bethlehem in the West Bank on Mouday.

## Gamaa claims 15 policemen killed

CAIRO (Agencies) — The underground Gamaa Al Islamiyah has claimed responsibility for the wave of deadly attacks on policemen in south Egypt, saying it avenged the illings of its militarts at the hands of police.

It also said 15 policemen died in the four separate attacks, rather than eight oolicemen and three civilians as reported by the Interior

"At the start of 1995 and with the backing of our people in Mallawi, our mujahedeen fighters carried out the 'law of talion' against 15 criminals of the security forces," Gamaa said in a

Claiming responsibility for all attacks carried out in Cairo and southern Egypt since August, the group called on policemen and soldiers to join its ranks in the fight to overthrow the government. its statement was signed "the hattalions of the martyr

Talaat Yassine Hammam, after the former chief of the Gamaa military wing who was killed by police last

April. The group was "more determined than ever to pursue the Jihad."

The Interior Ministry and police said the four attacks all took place near the town of Mallawi, about 300 kilometres south of Cairo. within the space of an hour.

They were among the bloodiest incidents since militants launched a violent antigovernment campaign in March 1992. The campaign has cost 567 lives, according to an AFP count.

The gunmen fled and security forces launched a huge manhunt in the region, questioning hundreds of people and making dozens of arrests. All the attacks targeted vehicles with police-

men on board. Police said earlier that the attacks were believed to be

ing revenge for the killing of six militants last Wednesday in a police raid.

On Sunday, suspected Gamaa members killed another policeman near Mallawi, which has become the main battlesite for militantpolice clashes in recent

The killings took to 27 they number of people killed in Egypt's political violence in the past six days alone. All but one was killed in or near

The Gamaa has targeted senior officials, Christians, tourists, liberal-minded intellectuals and policemen, mainly from the lower ranks, in its anti-government cam-

The latest attacks took place in broad daylight and on Monday the gunmen stopped buses on the main road out of Mallawi to search for policemen on their way to

In one incident, they ordered passengers off a bus and shot dead five policemen by the roadside.

The tactics employed underlined a growing confidence by the gunmen and appeared to cast doubt on repeated government pronouncements that it had broken the back of the mili-

Prime Minister Atef Sedki. himself the target of a failed assassination attempt by militants, struck a familiarly optimistie note in a year-end speech last week. He told police cadets that Egypt could expect 1995 to

be a year of peace and secur-Monday's attacks led to the dispatch of reinforcements from the neighbouring province of Assint, once the focus of militant violence. But security sources said police efforts are hampered

by the geography of Mallawi

which is surrounded by thick

sugarcane fields in which

fugitive militants often hide.

#### Israeli woman soldler jalled for theft

TEL AVIV (R) - An Israeli military court on Monday sentenced a woman soldier to five years in prison for stealing two submachine guns and selling them to Arabs in exchange for drugs, Israel Television said, Rachel Biton broke into the room of other soldiers on her Tel Aviv base and stole the two Israeli-made Uzi weapons. The television report said she traded the guns for drugs from an Israeli-Arab who passed the weapons on to Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories. Defence and prosecuting prison sentence but an army judge rejected the compromise and imposed a five-year term. The army drafts most Israeli women at age 18 for a two-year compulsory service.

293 armed drug traffickers and arrested 623 others last year, a guards commander said Tuesday. General Mohammad Bagher Zolghader, quoted by the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), said 17 tomies of various. drugs and weapons had also been siezed in northwestern and southeastern regions of Iran. Iran is a transit route for drugs coming from Afghanistan and Pakistan destined for Europe and North America. Over 100 tonnes of drugs, mainly opium, were seized from March to December 1994,

#### Sudan opens stock exchange

KHARTOUM (AFP) - The Sudanese authorities have opened a stock market, which will trade in shares for an initial period of just one hour a day, the director of the exchange, Abdul Rahim Hamdi, declared. Mr. Hamdi, a former finance minister, said 24 companies were originally listed on the exchange, which begun operating on Monday, and about 100 more firms will join them once registration procedures are completed. During the first hour of trading, two hanks, the Islamic Bank for Western Sudan and the Faisal Islamic Bank, sold 7,200 shares, raising 14,000 Sudanese dinars (about \$450). The Sudanese pound is still in . circulation, but the dinar was introduced two years ago as the country's official currency unit. A dinar is worth 10 pounds. A press was recently opened in Khartoum to print banknotes for the first time inside Sudan.

#### Hariri undergoes operation to open artery

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian Revolutionary Guards killed

attorneys, agreed in a plea bargain to a three-and-a-half year

#### 293 drug traffickers killed in Iran in 1994

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri had an operation to open a partiallyclogged artery on Monday at an Atlanta hospital in the United States. "Things are OK I arrived yesterday in Atlanta. Today, I entered hospital... I did the tests and one (of my) arteries was partially clogged. A balloon was inserted into it and it was a success 100 per cent," Mr. Hariri told Beirut's Future Television in a telephone conversation from his hospital bed. "I will be in Beirut in a few days," added Mr. Hariri, a construction tycoon who has launched multi-billion dollar plans to rebuild Lebanon from the ruin of the 1975-90 civil war. Quoting a hospital statement, Future Television, which is owned by Mr. Hariri, said the 50-year-old prime minister was in good condition and was to leave the hospital on Tuesday. The station said Mr. Hariri underwent the operation "after be was submitted to a medical examination as a result of a probing operation to his coronary artery

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

according to official figures.

#### abandon their compound in the Somali capital Mogadishu as rival factions fought for supremacy once the United Nations winds up its failed

mission in March.

#### militias who appeared to be vying for position to control both facilities once the U.N. troops leave, raising the spec-

tre of large-scale inter-clan The fighting in the south of the city has left well over 100 dead and some 500 wounded. since early December. Hospital staff and witnesses reported Monday that 11 peo-ple had been killed and 217 wounded since the weekend, including a Bangladeshi U.N.

soldier injured by a stray The retrenchment is expected to leave the few humanitarian organisations remaining in Mogadishn on their own, dependent on their Somali security guards. The: convoys had been provided with some escorts by

the U.N. troops. The U.N. civilian staff. including special representative Victor Gbeho of Ghana, will move to the airport, which is frequently hit by stray ordn-ance as rival militias battle with heavy weapons in near-

by streets.
"If the alarm bells go off, we can easily all be evacuated on one plane," said one staf-fer, evoking the prospect that a battle for the airport will start before the U.N. personnel leave.

Staff also fear attempts to loot remaining U.N. equip-

The officials did not say whether the compound would be handed over to any particular Somali group, or whether it would be left for the militias to fight over.

The heavily guarded com-pound, part of which used to be the U.S. embassy, contains millions of dollars worth of equipment and prefabricated buildings, most transferred from previous U.N. operations, as well as many Original plans were for the

equipment and buildings to be shipped out of Somalia by sea and air before the March 31 deadline, but heavily armed militias in pick-up battle-wagons have been hindering the evacuation. The U.N. personnel will also abandon an office north Mogadishu, which is

controlled by self-styled in-terim President Ali Mahdi Mohammad, their checkpoints on the "green line" dividing the north and the south of the lawless capital, and a humanitarian coordination office at a point in south Mogadishu known as Kilometre Four, a site of frequent deadly clashes between U.N. troops and Somali militias, the officials

The 9,000 U.N. troops and

HQ; 16 killed in fighting approximately 50 civilians remaining in Somalia — all now in Mogadishn — are due to withdraw from the ungoverned Horn of Africa country by the end of March following the failure of Mr. Ali Mahdi and his arch-rival, General Mohammad Farah Aideed, who controls most of

south Mogadishu, to agree on

a government of national uni-

The peacekeepers, who arrived in 1992 to halt looting of food being distributed to famine victims and pacify the country, quickly became mired in the anarchic inter-cian fighting which followed the toppling of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre in January 1991. He fled to

Kenya, then Nigeria, where he died Monday. At their peak, the international troops — U.S. and U.N. — numbered close to. 30,000. They have lost more than 160 men in clashes with militias and from stray fire. The United States and France have agreed to pro-

vide support forces to protect the departing U.N. personnel, but no date has yet been given for their arrival. Hospital officials said Tuesday at least 16 people have been killed and more than 230 wounded in four

days of militia battles in Mogadishu. Fighting with mortars, cannon, anti-tank rockets and machineguns was less intense on Tuesday than previous days as clan elders were starting work on a possible cease-

## U.S. soldiers sue German companies

BONN (Agencies) ---- American soldiers who fought dur-ing the Gulf war have filed a lawsuit against 20 German companies which, they allege, allowed Iraq to build chemical weapons, the week-ly Stern reported Tuesday. The soldiers are asking \$1 billion in damages and interest for illnesses they developed after the Gulf war.

Thousands of American soldiers who fought during the 1991 war to oust Iraq from Knwait have complained of symptoms that have eluded the medical community and have become commonly known as the "Gulf war syndrom."

Among the symptoms are chronic fatigue, depression and anxiety.

The snit alleges 20 defen-

dants, including Thyssen AG, Preussag AG, Degussa AG, Sigma GMBH and Heberger BAU, sold Iraq "substances and equipment" which it used to create chemical weapons.

confirmed to Reuters the company had been served papers seeking at least \$50,000a in damages. He said the allegations were groundless and the company was confident the case would not succeed. ·

. A Degussa spokesman

Stern quoted a Thyssen spokesman as also saying: "We think the suit is basically

groundless." Comment from the other defendants was not immediately available. No German company has acknow-ledged selling Iraq such material or technology.

## Morocco to try gang for killing of Spaniards

RABAT (R) — Eighteen people charged with armed attacks in Morocco late last. year, including one in which two Spaniards were killed, are to go on trial in the central city of Fez on Jan. 10,

a lawyer said on Monday. The group is accused of setting up a criminal gang, armed robbery, and premeditated murder, lawyer Abdul Khaleq Al Kadi told Reuters

by telephone. The court next week will

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn

examine, a record 500-page file on the attacks. The weighty file was drawn up during four months of inquiry, and Mr. Kadi said "It is a real record in Moroc-

can justice history.'

During the August and September, 18 snspects, members of the same group, were arrested in Morocco af-

The lawyer added that he

had been appointed by the court to help the examina-

ter an armed attack on a luxury hotel at the southern. city of Marrakesh where two Spanish tourists were shot

The gang had also attacked banks, a supermarket and a restaurant in other parts of the country, officials said. Police seized an arsenal of weapons in a house owned by

the father of one of the sus-

pects in the Rif mountain

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

village of Aknoul, north of

Five members of the group held French passports, but all were of Moroccan or Algerian origin. The authorities have described the suspects as "terrorists" bent on destabilising Morocco, but their

political motivation was un-Neighbouring Algeria has been racked by political violence since Jan. 1992 when the authorities cancelled a general election which Islamie fundamentalists were poised to win.

44

## JORDAN TELEVISION

the work of the Gamma seek-

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į	PROGRAMME TWO
Í	17:09 Diplode 17:36 Thalass
ļ	18:30 Musique Sans Frontiere
1	19:00 News in French
	19:30 Home Improvement 19:45 E-M
	20:00 Life in the Freeze
	28-38 Quantum Lea
,	21:15 Law and Orde
	22:00 News in English
į	22-28 Snowy Rive

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES
St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swelfiels, Tel. 810740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
632785. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Amuniciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tcl. 661757 Terrasancia Caurch Tel: 622366
(Toursh of the Assessmentation Tel.

623541.

771331. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Annua International Church Tel. 824328. German-openking Evangelical Con-gregation Tel: 684195 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932 Church of Nazarrene Tel. 67591. The Evangelical Local Changle in

Min./Max. temp.

Auglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. ze Catholic Church Tel. Orthodox Church Tel.

### Tel. 811295

WEATHER in supplied by the Depart-of Meteorology.

Temperatures are expected to rise further with warm and sumry weather conditions prevailing and winds becoming easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR Amman 17 Aqaba 23, Humidity readings: Amman 32 per cent, Aqaba 36 per cent.

TELEPHONE

NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Babjat Bader ...... Dr. Arafat Ashhab ...... Sa'id Ali .. Dr. Yahya Abdul Salam .... Firas phermacy Perdows pharmacy Al Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy 637055 Yacoub pharmacy ....... Shmeisani pharmacy ...... Nairoujh pharmacy ...... TRRID: Dr. Ali Al Shoqairi Al Ques pharmacy

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ...... 637;11

623672 636730 644945 637660 Jordan Televisio Radio Jordan ... Water Authority 246140 Electric Power ZARQA: Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein .... 985000

## . 630341

Highway Police
Traffic Police
Public Security Department
Price Complaints
Water and Sewerage
Complaints
Amman Municipality
Complaints Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... Overseas Calls ......

#### en Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Akiloh Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jabal Amman Maternity 6424412.

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Maihas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shaneisani 6641714

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 843845

Al-Muscher Hospital 6672219

The Islamic, Abdali 66612737 . 775121 787111 ZAROA Zarqa Govl. Hospital (09)983323 Zarqa National Hospital . 010230 (09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital ...... (09)986732 Al Hitass Modern Hospital (09)99090 Princes Besse Hospital (02)27555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Naices Hospital (02)247100 815615 Princess Hays Hospital ...... (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER **QUEEN ALIA** 

## This information is supplied by Royal Jordaniau (RJ) information department at the Ousen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (0053200-5, where it should always be veri-ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 66:55 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (Ri Jeddah (add) (R. m, New York (R. ... London (R.) ... Paris (R) 18:16 18:35 . . Rome (Ri Toronto, Montreal (R.I) 23:15 Other Flights (Terminal 2)

# Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK) Larnaca (CY) Beirut (ME)

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Other Flights (Terminal 2) Beirst (ME)
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. 280/180 850/600

INTERNATIONAL

**AIRPORT** 

# Jordanian, Israeli businessmen Patient fight ends in death in Fuheis

Israel business group leader optimistic

By P.V. Vivekanand rdan Times Staff Reporter

MMAN — The heads of he Jordanian and Israeli derations of chambers of commerce met for the first ime in Amman on Tuesday in what was described as an Israeli message of assurance to Inrdanians that peace has its economic dividends that could be

reaped together.

Dan Gillerman, head of the Israeli Federation of Chambers of Chambers of commerce, who led the Israeli team to the talks with Haidar Murad, president of the Jordanian Federation of Commerce, described the meetings as aimed at setting up a framework for relations beween the two sides.

Mr. Gillerman said that during the meeting it was agreed to work towards formalising an agreement on cooperation between the two federations, and look closely at joint ven-tures that would allow Jordanians to take advantage of the privileged status Israel enjoys under accords signed with the United

States and Europe.
According to Mr. Gillerman, Israeli manufacturers and exporters were interested in exploring possibilities of setting up joint ventures under which "the mannfacturing could be done in Jordan and the finishing could be done in Israel.

The finished products could be exported to North America and Europe under favourable terms which include tariff-free Israeli imports to those countries under the privileged trade agreements that Israel has concluded, noted Mr. Gillerman, who sounded highy positive about prospects for such projects.

"We are aware that there is scepticism among Jordanians about the pace at which economic cooperation with Israel should proceed and over the dividends of peace," said Mr.

"I believe that our visit here is very timely (given this scepticism) in that it is sending a message to pays' and the 'dividends of peace are there and there

to be resped together"." "It is the first time that the heads of the federations of chambers of commerce of the two countries met, noted Mr. Gillerman, who arrived here on Monday leading a 25-member delegation for talks with

Jordanian counterparts. Mr. Gillerman said the meeting was suggested by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the fringes of the Oct. 30-Nov. 1 economic conference on the Middle East and North Africa held in Casablanca,

During the meeting, attended by the members of the board of the Jordanian Federation of Chambers of Commerce, Mr. Murad "advocated a cautions approach to economic ties," Mr. Gillerman told the Jordan Times in a tele-

Мотоссо.

phone interview. Mr. Murad also emphasised the need to create a mechanism for cooperation between the Israeli and Jordanian private sectors addressing the concerns of both sides, he said.

The two sides also discussed preparations for a conference to be held in Amman this year as a follownp to the Casablanca meeting and possibilities of joint projects to be presented at the gathering, Mr. Giller-

Also discussed during Tuesday's talks was the creation of a regional chamber of commerce, "which, hopefully, will eventually include all other countries in the region — Syria, Lebanon and Iraq," Mr. Gillerman said.

Mr. Gillerman described the members of the delegation accompanying him as distinguished businessmen with large operations in Israel in foodstuff, medicine, textiles; and agricul-

The team also includes heads of the largest department stores in Israel which would like to import Jordanian products, he said.

"There is also a firm commitment to hold a Jordan Week in Israel," to familiarise Israelis with Jordanian products, Mr. Gillerman said, adding that no date had been fixed for

The Israeli team also invited Mr. Murad to visit Israel along with a delegation of Jordanians interested in doing business

with Israelis, he added. mediately available from Mr. Murad.

Simultaneous with the formal talks between the federation heads and officials, memhers of the Israeli delegation met with Jordanian businessmen to discuss immediate possibilities of trade.

However, no actual deal

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

Fuheis Hospital for Nervnus Disorders Mnnday beat another patient to death, police reports said.

is expected to be executed

until the two sides finalise a

trade accord as called for in

The Israeli team, which included several Israeli

bankers, crossed to Jordan

through the newly opened Jordan River Bridge and

will return home across the

Araha Crossing in the south after visiting Petra on

The team's visit came

amid reports that Israel ex-

pects to conclude a most favoured nation (MFN)

trade agreement with Jor-

Zohar Peri, director of

foreign trade at the indus-

try and trade ministry, as

saying that Israel had

agreed to quicken the pace

of negotiations on a simplified MFN accord at a meet-

ing of the joint Trade and

Economic Cooperation

Committee in the northern

Israeli town of Tiberias last

During that meeting, the Israeli side presented a draft MFN accord to the

Jordanian negotiators, who

are now expected to respond to it in two weeks, the Post said Tuesday.

Although the Oct. 26 Jordan-Israel peace treaty

provides for a free trade

area between the two coun-

tries, Israel conceded to the

more limited agreement

proposed," the Post re-

According to a source quoted by the Israeli paper,

Israel wants to first to reach

an accord in principle on a free trade area with Jor-

dan, with details for its

implementation to he

does not want to commit

itself now to a free trade

area with Israel since it has

no similar agreement with

an Arah country," said the

Jordan wants first to see.

how the trade relationship.

develops and what it could.

expect to gain from upgrad-

mg it, the source quoted by

Under the peace treaty,

Jordan and Israel are ex-

pected to finalise a trade

ing members of the delega-

tion accompanying him as highly influential in forms-

lating Israeli trade policies,

said they would seek to

incorporate in the prop-

osed accord elements of

what they saw as significant

to a trade relationship with

Jordan during their visit

agreement by May.

the paper said.

However, the Kingdom

negotiated later.

The English-language Jerusalem Post quoted

dan within weeks.

the peace treaty.

Wednesday.

According to the report, one of the doctors at the hospital told police that while he was distributing medicine to the patients Monday, he heard a scream coming from one of the rooms. When he went to check, he said, he found two patients in a physical

The report said that the

victim, identified nnly as A.M.H., 60, was struck in the head several times hy

According to the report, the assailant used only his bare hands in the fight. The victim was taken to

Al Bashir Hospital hut died a few hours later. An official at the Fuheis hospital contacted by the Jordan Times Tuesday refused in comment on the incident and would not release any details.

After several attempts to contact any police official to elaborate nn the matter, none was availahle Tues day evening.

## Cabinet approves EU office to coordinate regional projects

Cabinet Tuesday approved a European Uninn (EU) request to establish in Amman a permanent nffice of a general secretariat to follow up on the work of regional development working

The nffice will act as a liaison between the EU and the governments in the Mid-

dle East region.
Regional development ssues were agreed to as part of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty, and the EU pledged to offer financial assistance and expertise for such development schemes.

French Amhassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet said last October that the European Commission in Brussels was presenting the foreign minis-ters council of the European Union with a formal proposal to earmark \$600 millinn for economic assistance 10 countries involved in the Middle

East peace process.

The Council of Ministers also approved the hosting in Amman of a special team from the United Nations Compensation Fund which is due in arrive here by mid-

During the week-long visit, the team will hold talks with government nfficials on comensation for thnusands of Jordanians who lost property and jobs in the Gulf states as

Cahinet, which met under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, also approved the npening in Amman of an nffice for the Australian Meat and Livestock Corpora-tion to promote sheep trade with Jordan.

Anstralian emhassy sources said that nearly 600,000 heads of sheep will be imported by Jordan from Australia during 1995.

The Cahinet approved a request by a local company to cooperate with Jordan Televisinn in boost television broadcasts in Zarqa, Irbid

## Panel to examine collapse of bridge — mayor

By Rana Husseini Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Mayor Mamdouh Ahbadi said Tuesday that a committee was formed hy the municipality to investigate the collapse of a hridge nnder construction near the Seventh Circle.

Dr. Ahhadi told the Jordan Times that samples of cement, iron and other material were collected by committee engineers for examination, 'Until now, we don't know

the cause of the collapse, hnt we have taken samples from the wreckage to determine the cause," Dr. Ahbadi said. The accident occurred at 6 p.m. when workers were pouring concrete on a section

of the hridge. One side of the bridge suddenly collapsed.

Municipality workers Tuesday clean up the wreckage of a

bridge which collapsed under construction Wednesday

Several workers were injured in the incident, reports said. An engineer at the site said that most of the workers were released from hospital

According to Dr. Ahbadi.

the completion of the JD 154,000 project will be de-

When completed, the hridge will connect the Abdoun area and the Queen Alia International Airport road with the Seventh Circle.

Dr. Abhadi earlier told Jordan Television that preliminary inquiries found that the collapse occurred because

evening near the Seventh Circle in Amman (photo by Rana

of insufficient support pillars, and that the contractor was trying to complete the work ahead of time.

This is the second reported incident involving the collapse of a structure within a month. On Dec. 10, a newlyhuilt five-storey huilding collapsed two hours after completion in Nazal suhurh: No casualties were reported in that incident.

# says talks fruitful

AMMAN (J.T.) — A visiting British Labour Party Parliamentarian Tuesday described his talks with Jordanian officials as positive and fruitful, saying that new scopes of. cooperation between the two countries have been opened.

At the end of his two-day visit here, Grevil Ganner, who was on a tour of the region, said his trip was aimed at finding new ways and methods to accelerate the peace process and over-come difficulties facing the establishment of a new Middle East.

Mr. Ganner, who left for Damascus Tuesday, said His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership has enabled Jordan to enter the peace process with full confidence in ensuring security, peace and prosperity for the people.

Ganner said they would not be achieved overnight, hu stressed that the region's problems will be solved gra-Mr. Ganner said the

American role in the peace process is vital and strategic, and the European role complements the American role. He added that the United

states has made strenuous efforts to reach the Camp David accord between Israel and Egypt, as well as the other agreements between Israel and both the Palestinians and Jordan. He said he hoped that

peace will be achieved gradually in the region.

Mr. Ganner will return to Amman from Damascus Wednesday en route to the West Bank.

## Visiting British MP Ferry company reports \$9m profit AQABA (Petra) — The Arab Maritime Bridge Com-pany (AMBC) Thesday re-

Un the economic benefits ported a \$9 million profit for of the peace process, Mr. 1994 and announced plans for expansion. The AMBC, owned hy Egypt, Jordan and Iraq was

established in 1985 with a \$6 million capital. The company owns three ferry boats which commute between the ports of Nweibeh in Sinai and Aqaha in Jordan. According to Mohammad

Dalabih, the company's general manager, the ferries last year made 1,900 trips between the two ports, transporting 1,348,662 passengers and 300,408 tonnes of luggage.

Hc said the company also transported 79,344 vehicles which included small cars huses and trucks.

The AMBC recently added a small vessel to its fleet, raising the total daily capacity to 7,500 passengers, Mr. Dalahih said.

This year, the company plans to operate two speed boats to transport passengers

between : Nweibeh and Aqaha in one hour rather than the three hours required hy ferry, Mr. Dalahih said, adding that the two vessels have a combined capacity of 500 passengers.

Referring to installations, Mr. Dalabih said the com-pany has started building a 4,000-square-metre complex in Aqaba to serve as a waiting area for vehicles and passengers and their luggage. He said the project was

expected to cost JD5 million.

## Senate approves budget

(Continued from page I) training with special focus on training young people in maintenance and production

H.C.

RATESTAL

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He said that the third element concerns the reduction of the role of the public sec-tor in favour of the private sector. The public sector is currently employing 55 per cent of the total Jordanian workforce but it is now up to the private sector to belp the government contain the rate of unemployment.

The prime minister said the government was determined to give a greater role in handling the economy to the private sector and had started steps towards achieving that

objective.
The fourth element of concern to the government is ending the division of Jordan into rural and urban and badia regions. Dr. Majali said the government was determined to remove the differences and gaps among these regions by increasing and improving the quality of services to the rural and badia regions which would eventually result in the redisDr. Majali revealed that the general census conducted last month proved that half of the Jordanian population lives in Amman and Zarqa. He said that the government wanted to bring about a fairer distribution of population over all areas, especially the sparsely populated districts which hold great development potential.

He said the fifth element concerns the peace process which has taken Jordan into a new horizon where it is exerting efforts to reduce its foreign debts and increase foreign aid to the Kingdom. The government will pursue this course and hopes to acquire additional funds for financing development schemes, he added.

The prime minister stressed that the government was in full agreement with the Senate's recommendations for privatising public sector organisations. The government will take into account all remarks made about the improvement of the performance of the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Telecommunications Corporation and privatising them.

## Stage set for change

(Continued from page 1)

number of conditions. Many will have to be from Parliament, whether deputies or senators, to signal faith in the peoples' choice of representatives. But alongside this apparent message of demo-cratic policy, the Cabinet will also have to include a strong team of veteran eco-nomists "who inspire confi-dence," as one insider put it.

On the foreign policy level, the sources expected that the new government, having taken over from Dr. Majan who had led the country into peace talks as chief nego-tiator and concluded the task by signing the peace treaty with Israel, will now assume the new task of defining the country's relations with Arab countries, and paramount among them the Palestinian

### Russian assault

(Continued from page I)

In a letter offering talks to Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Mr. Dudayev said the final push into Grozny had been a "catastrophe for the attackers and a tragedy for the defenders."

Interfax news agency said

its correspondent in Grozny had reported that rebels were still keeping Russian troops well away from the palace. Russian authorities have periodically said since the advance began that their

troops had secured control of the hulding.
Interfax said the main theatre of fighting was near the railway station, 1.5 kilometres west of the palace.

A second pocket was five kilometres to the north. There was also word Tuesday on just how much of a ghost town Grozny has become. The International Committee of the Red Cross said in Geneva that 300,000 people — 75 per cent of the capital's population — had

fled the city.

A Red Cross relief convoy carrying mainly medical sup-plies made it into the south of Chechenya on Tuesday, a

Red Cross spokesman said. Tuesday's Russian shelling appeared aimed at keeping Chechen forces away from some 60 Russian tanks and armoured personnel carriers trapped in the city after the failed ground offensive, Chechen fighters said.

Six Chechen fighters left the city carrying the bodies of two fallen comrades. "The fighting is intense, hut the Russians have suffered heavier losses," said one soldier, Said Duhayev, 32. As night fell three buildmgs were in flames.

## Scientists plan Mideast physics conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The and international levels. prospect of organising an international physics conference in the Middle East was reviewed Tuesday at a meeting at the Higher Council for Science and Technology (F-CST) attended by a group nf Italian scientists and Jerdanian physicists and heads of physics departments at the state universities. Director of the HCST In-

frastructure Sector and the

council's acting Secretary General Khaled Shreideh re-

viewed at the meeting the

establishment of the council

He also hriefed the audience on the council's role in supporting scientific research and development projects.

Two professors from Cag-liari and Turino universities in Italy said the Italian group was louring the Middle East region to discuss the time and venue for hosting the confer-

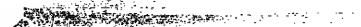
Dr. Shreideh said the meeting discussed the prospect of having Jordanian and Italian universities conduct joint research in physics and advancing academic cooperaand its goals, and its achieve-ments at the national, Arah mes. tion in academic program-

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ☆ Film entitled "Una Novia Para David" at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre) at 5:00 p.m. Concert entitled "Towards Humanity" by British Flutist Wissam Boustamy and planist Amira Fouad at the Royal
- Cultural Centre at 2:00 a.m. ★ Film entitled "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.
- Exhibition of oil paintings by Mahmoud Musa at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- Exhibition of works hy Mahmud Obaidi at Darat Al Funum. Also showing an exhibition of portraits by Fahrelnissa Zeid and the exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.

★ Exhibition of paintings by Ismail and Tamam Shame
at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

### OUR Smart'z Restaurant announces that this is only a temporary **KNIVES** measure! AND **FORKS** Beginning January 4 **ARE** 1995, Smart'z will be tied up TIED with a renovation venture that is full of promise... . RIGHT Mark your calendar for a great opening. after Ramadan!



**Tussie** over

Nizam jewels resolved

NEW DELHI (AFP) - A

two-decade-long tussle over

the jewellery owned by a former Indian royal family

has come to an end with the

government agreeing to buy

the collection for \$72 million,

a newspaper reported. The

government has until Jan. 16

to purchase the 173 pieces

known as the Nizam jewels,

owned by the former Nizam

of Hyderabad, reputed in his

lifetime to be the world's

richest man, the Hindustan

Times said. The government

and the heirs of the former

Muslim ruler of Hyderabad

state have been at logger-

heads for the past two de-cades over the value of the

jewels. The Nizam's heirs offered in 1972 to sell the

jewellery to the government but they had been unable to

fix a price on the collection.

which includes the Jacob di-

amond, items from Cartier

and neckaces belonging to

Napoleon's Josephine, India's

princely states were aho-

lished following independ-

miraculous train

outside Lourdes

LOURDES, France (AFP)

- A French motorist was

thanking the beavens Monday

after escaping unhurt

when her car was crushed by a

high-speed TGV train as she

was on her way to Lourdes.

The 24-year-old woman was driving to the pilgrimage

town in southwestern France

from nearby Tarbes early

Sunday, after spending New

Year's Eve with friends,

when she got stuck on a level crossing. Helped by a passing

motorist she tried in vain to

free the vehicle. The pair

were still struggling with the

dilemma when, minutes la-ter, the Tarbes-Lourdes ex-

press roared into view at 110 kmh (70 mph). The woman

was left to contemplate her

luck as the train pushed the

empty car for some 100

metres along the track, crushing it before coming to a

ence in 1947.

Woman In

near-miss

## 4 World News

## Cambodian rebels abandon base

PHNOM PENH (Agencies) - Khmer Rouge guerrillas abandoned a stronghold in northwest Cambodia in the face of advancing govern-ment forces backed by hundreds of Khmer Rouge defectors, the governor of Siem Reap province said Tuesday.

We completely took Phnom Kulen yesterday without fighting," Ton Chay told Reuters Tuesday.

A hundred Khmer Rouge

fighters had been guarding the stronghold. "They just abandoned the base once they knew we had advanced against them," the governor

Phnom Kuleu lies 60 kilometres north of Siem Reap town, the provincial capital, and is best known as the quarry for the sandstone used to huild the 12thcentury Angkor group of

A provincial police com-missioner, Major-General Chea Sopheak, told Reuters on the telphone that some of the Khmer Rouge soldiers who had been hased at Phnom Kulen in the past had defected to the government while others had fied to their bases along the border with

He described the attack as "a great victory for the govermment army as the base was taken without bloodshed." The Khmer Rouge, which is held responsible for the deaths of a million Cambo-

dians during their reign of

terror from 1975 to 1979.

BEIJING (AFP) — China

Tuesday welcomed an offer

to hold high-level talks with

Taiwanese officials this

month hut analysts said Beij-

ing was virtually certain to

ignor President Lee Teng-Hui's latest offer of a summit.

Association for Relations

Across the Taiwan Straits

(ARATS) said no letter set-

ting out Taiwan's offer had

yet been received. But he

added that "the time prop-

The unofficial relations be-

tween the two rivals are dealt

with by ARATS and Taipei's

Straits Exchange Foundation

(SEF) which said Monday

that it wanted to hold talks at

communication from the SEF

soon," said the Chinese offi-

The SEF proposed talks, alongside lower-level meet-

ings, between Jan. 19 and 27.

Under the Taiwan proposal,

SEF Vice-Chairman Chiao

Jen-Ho would meet his

ARATS counterpart, Tang

The ARATS spokesman would not say if China would

agree to the Chiao-Tang

meeting since last August.

Shubei.

"We hope to get an official

the end of January.

osed poses no problem.

A spokesman for Beijing's

continue to wage a low-level guerrilla war against the Cambodian government.

Meanwhile, Khmer Rouge guerrillas shot dead a militiaman and seven train passengers near Phnom Penh in their second railway ambush in little more than six months, officials and survivors said Tuesday.

The Khmer Rouge killed eight people, including four women, and wounded thirtysix," state railway director Pick Kimsreang told AFP.

They ambushed the train

in Samaki Meanchey district, Kompong Chhnang province Monday afternoon," he said, referring to an area around 60 kilometres northwest of the capital.

The guerrillas stopped the train by blowing up the railway tracks, then opened fire on the carriages with machine guns and B-40 rockets, said the deputy commander of the train militia, who survived the attack.

"First the Khmer Rouge exploded five mines on the track then they opened fire. Our militia retreated because we only had 20 men but they had about sixty," Chum Pum said, adding his brother was the sole militiaman killed.

The seven other victims of the attack, including the four women, were civilians. One other militiaman was wounded and the other casualties were civilians, Chum Pum

The ambushed train was laden with peasants riding to

China welcomes offer for Taiwan talks

But observers said there were

hopeful signs of a positive

two bodies have concentrated

on the repatriation of main-

land hijackers and stow-

aways. Taiwan also hopes to

A solution to the problem

of how to deal with hijackers

who force planes to Taiwan

has been held up by the

question of sovereignty. Taiwan and China have

claimed to rule all of China

since the end of the civil war

in 1949 when the nationalists

Taiwanese officials have

indicated that if the next

round of talks make progress,

then topics such as Taiwanese

investment in China could be

added to the agenda. A meet-

ing between the presidents of

SEF and ARATS, Koo

Chen-Fu and Wang Daohan,

President, Lee Teng-Hin was reiterated his willingness

to meet Chinese President

Jiang Zemin at an Asia-

Pacific snmmit in November

in Osaka, Japan, the China

Mr. Lee told local news-

paper editors that "the best

time and location for talks"

could also be raised.

Times said Tuesday.

fied to Taiwan.

discuss trade issues.

Recent talks between the

response.

Phnom Penh to sell farm produce, Chum Pum said. "After the raid, the guerrilias started to rob things from the passengers," Chum

Pam said, saying that most of the attackers were wearing Khmer Rouge uniforms. Railway officials said the train was seriously damaged in the attack and several coaches were derailed.

Cambodia's ancient and decrepit railway system, with its slow-moving trains, is a frequent target for the Khmer Rouge and rural ban-dits. Passengers say the 20 or so train militiamen offer little

protection. Most of the victims of train amhnshes are ordinary Cambodian citizens, some of whom may be kidnapped, as well as robbed, and only re-leased if their relatives pay a ransom of some kind.

Government soldiers arrived at the scene of Monday's train ambush after the Khmer Ronge had left, another survivor told AFP saying he did not understand why the soldiers took so long to show up.

"I don't know why the government troops didn't come to help us in time, because the attack took place close to the government base," he said.

On July 26 Khmer Rouge guerrillas amhushed the southern-bound train from Phnom Penh to Sihanoukville, killing 13 passengers and marching off several others,

was in Osaka, where the

Asia-Pacific Economic Coop-

eration (APEC) forum will be held, the daily said.

The mass-circulation daily

quoted Mr. Lee as saying that

relations should be de-

veloped steadily through con-

Observers said though that

the possibility of a summit

was negligible. Japanese offi-

cials have hinted Tokyo has

no plans to invite Mr. Lee to

the APEC meetings, in line

with the policy adopted by previous APEC host nations.

Taiwan's president was not

invited to the APEC Seattle

summit in 1993 or to the

Jakarta suinmit in November

last year because the host

nations wanted to avoid irri-

Beijing has issued repeated

warnings to the rest of the

world not to invite Taipei

leaders to official meetings,

regardless of whether the

forums are political or econo-

The mainland's leadership

apparently fears that includ-

ing the island to any regional

or international event would

boost Taiwan's diplomatic

standing and its sovereignty

tating China.

mic in nature.

tinued exchanges.

to their deaths several

months later in the jungle. Some government officials admitted that in the July attack the government police supposedly guarding the track may have been acting with the Khmer Ronge ambushers, and conveniently ignored the ambush in exchange for a share of the

In a separate development. Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai said Tuesday that he would personally decide whether Cambodian General Sin Song should be returned to Phnom Penh, where he faces iail for an abortive coup bid last July.

Speaking after the weekly cabinet meeting, which the Thai press had said would Sin Song or deport him to a third country, Mr. Chuan said he expected to make a decision within the week.

Analysts generally expected Thailand would refuse Cambodia's request to return the fugitive general to Phnom Penh, where he was sentenced in absentia in October to 20 years in prison. The Thai Foreign Ministry

said earlier it had concluded. based on documents pro-vided by Phnom Penh, that Sin Song was wanted on a political rather than a criminal charge and that he should thus not be extradited.

After escaping from custody prior to the trial, Sin Song turned up in Thailand

in Philippine

ECHAGUE, Philippines (R)

— At least 29 people were killed, and their bodies plun-

dered by thieves, after their

bus plunged more than 100 feet (33 metres) from a

bridge in the northern Philip-

pines Tuesday, police said. Thieves looted cash and

valuables of the victims as

they lay pinned in the wreck-

age of the bus near Echague

in the northern Philippines,

making identification diffi-

"These people are shame-

less. They stripped the dead of their wallets," a police

officer said in an interview.

Babaran, quoting witnesses, said the hus smashed through

the left side of the bridge

before dawn as the driver

The driver was killed in the

More than 30 passengers

were injured when the bus

crashed through the bridge

railing and plunged into a deep ravine outside Echague.

250 kilometres north of the

One 13-year-old survivor

said he was awake when the

accident occurred before

"I saw the bus jump from the bridge so I just held on

tightly to my seat." Joseph

ductor remove the door and

that's how we got out. There was a lot of blood. A lot of

dead people. There were also

many pinned down by the

Quesada, his left eye in-

bus. They were all crying,"

Then I saw the bus con-

Ouesada said.

crash and there was no trace

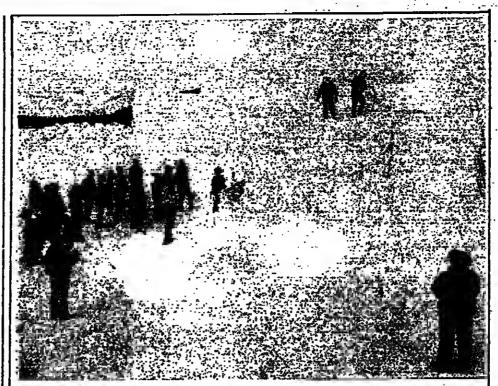
of the other bus, be said.

the same route.

Echague Mayor Fernando

bus crash

29 killed



opening of the 28-room "Igloo-Hotel" — photo)

snow and ice in the northern Swedish town of some 160 "heated" sleeping cabins for those Jukkasjaervi in this file picture in order to who do not like to sleep on iceblocks — is build this year's "Igloo-Hotel," which is an expected for Jan. 13. The hotel's season ends annual attraction in this resuote spot some naturally in late April, when the sun takes care 1,400 kilometres north of Stockholm. The of the hotel's demolition and recycling (AFP)

### Sri Lanka, Tigers agree to halt fighting

COLOMBO (Agencies) — also Mrs. Kumaratunga's The Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger guerrillas have agreed on a cessation of hostilities, a top official who attended peace talks Tuesday

announced here. Kusumsiri Balapatabendi, the leader of the government peace mission said it was now up to President Chandrika Kumaratunga to decide on a date to give effect to the agreemen

The talks were very cordial and very satisfactory," he said arriving here after talks with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the rebelheld northern town of Jaffna. Mr. Balapatabendi, who is

secretary, said that the LTTE freed four police prisoners to mark the resumption of peace talks Tuesday. The main item on the agenda was the "cessation of hostilities."

He said the LTTE supremo Velupillai Prabhakaran had been "so happy" with the talks that he decided to free four policemen instead of the two they had originally plan-

The five-member government team included an army

brigadier and a navy captain. The government delegation is now expected to brief Mrs. Kumaratunga who is likely to announce the date of the ceasefire in her scheduled address to perliament Friday. The talks were postponed after the Tigers were sus-pected of involvement in the Oct. 24 killing of opposition presidential candidate Gami-ni Dissanayake.

An outburst of attacks on army camps by rebels last month and the shooting Saturday of a Tamil politician opposed to the rebels also made it harder to resume the talks, the source said,

Karavai Kandasamy, general-secretary of the People's Liberation Organisation of Tamil Eelam, a former Tamil separatist militia, was shot in the neck by a gunman at his home. His party blamed the

## 4 Russian troops killed in Tajik attack

MOSCOW (R) - Four Russian soldiers were killed in the former Soviet Republic of Tajikistan Monday when their armogred car was hlown up by rebels firing from across the border in Afghanistan, Interfax News Agency

Several other soldiers were injured in the border attack, Interfax said. It gave no further details.

Russia has 25,000 troops in Tajikistan propping up the government against rebels, who fled after losing a civil

war in 1992. Earlier reports from the Tajik capital Dushanbe said six Russian servicemen had died over the New Year after drinking champagne prob-

ably spiked with cyanide.

This was the latest in a series of killings of Russian soldiers in the republic.

A senior Russian officer was killed in Dushanbe on New Year's Eve. A military source said at the weekend that Lieutenant-Colonel Vladimir Dolmatov, 37, was shot

in the head. President Imamali Rakhmonov said in a New Year address that illegal weapons would be confiscated and illegal armed groups disbanded to ease a threat of

military conflict in Tajikistan.

#### Polish surgeon successfully re-attaches organ

WARSAW (R) - Surgeons in northeastern Poland have successfully re-attached the penis and testicles of a-young man who had cut them off. state television said. "The patient, a 29-year-old man from the town of Zambrow, who had cut off his own genitals — both his penis and testicles — was rushed to the Bialystok Medical Academy where we decided to operate immediately," Professor Janusz Darewicz, the chief surgeon, said on television.
"The success of the operation was possible thanks to the quick-witted emergencyroom doctor in Zambrow who placed the severed genitals in a jar full of saline solution and packed it in ice," Prof. Darewicz said. Asked whether the organ would resume all its normal functions, he replied: "It's still too early to tell." The television did not say why he

#### **Experts try** to save trapped Vanuatu dolphins

teer helpers are racing against time in the tiny South Pacific island nation of told Renters. The attempt involved 13 boats and 14 scu-

## Colombia rebels knock peace hopes

BOGOTA (R) — Hopes for early peace talks to end Colombia's long-running guerril-la war took a knock when the country's biggest rebel group attacked the government for preaching peace hut practis-

ing war. President Ernesto Samper's five-month-old government has made peace with Colombia's esumated 10,000 Communist guerrilias a top priority hat mistrust on both sides has held up progress and no date has vet been set for negotiations to begin.

The higgest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) said in a New Year message sent to radio stations that "if a political solution is really wanted the government must harmonise its words with its

"The decision of the Samper government to increase military spending, professionalise more soldiers, increase the number of belicopters and create new paramilitary groups is not exactly evidence of an official will for peace," the FARC said.

Mr. Samper hopes the rebels will be more inclined to negotiate a peace treaty with him because his government has pledged to boost social spending, improve health and education for the poorest Colombians, huild 600,000 homes and create 1.5 million new jobs - all longstanding guerrilla priorities.

The president reiterated his hopes of progress on

soon a reality

grows... and the hank accounts of the oligarchy

peace talks in a televised New

But the FARC statement handouts."

Referring to Mr. Samper's pledges to continue the economic modernisation and privatisation programme started hy the previous government, the FARC said "the aggressive neo-liberal recipe continnes to advance implacably while the percentage of poor

Tear message, saying that "in 1995 we are going to try to see that peace stops being a dream and becomes a challenge and hopefully very

dismissed government initiatives so far, saying they failed to attack the root of the social problems and amounted to little more than "charity

> jured in the crash, said he was still looking for his mother, who was with him on the bus. There were 58 people aboard the bus bound for Tuguegarao City when it left Manila, hut police said passengers picked up along the way could have swelled the

number to more than 60.

SYDNEY (AFP) — Boh Wales beachside home of a

Hawke, Australia's second longest-serving prime minister during what he termed "a love affair with the Austra-lian people," has publicly revealed another love affair with his biographer Blanche D'Alpaget.

Looking like a young couple much in love, the 65-yearold former Labour leader was pictured on the front pages of most newspapers here Tuesday strolling on a beach, arm-in-arm with the glamorous, blonde 51-year-old writer.

The posed photographs, in which they romantically hold hands and look into each other's eyes, provided public confirmation of a longrumoured relationship just a month after Mr. Hawke announced he and his wife

remain "good friends." The pictures were taken while Mr. Hawke and Ms.

D'Alpuget were holidaying

Hazel were separating after 38 years of marriage. Tearfully, he said at the time that he and Hazel would

mutual friend, a 90-year-old judge who was the subject of another biography by Ms. D'Alpuget.

Former premier publicly reveals

She told a local newspaper reporter it was "wonderful to be on holiday together" and that she thought "1995 would be a very good year." He

offered no comment, but agreed to the photogaphs. As author of at least six successful books and many essays and articles, Ms. D'Alpuget shot to fame after her 1982 warts-and-all biography of Mr. Hawke, in which he was revealed as a womanising

They were characteristics to which he subsequently owned up in a number of celebrated tearful interviews. But he stopped drinking in time for the March 1983 election which swept him to power and he went on to win a record four terms of officeuntil being ousted in a party room coup by his former treasurer Paul Keating in De-

cember 1991. Asked about Mr. Hawke's. fondness for women during a

Australia's worst kept secret 1989 interview, Ms. D'Alpuget said: "I think the reason for womanising, as far as I know, is testosterone." She also helped Mr. Hawke write his own controversial autobiography, published last year, in which he alienated most of his former Labour colleagues with what was considered gratuitous criticism of Mr. Keat-

> He described his relationship with Ms. D'Alpuget during the writing of his autobiography as "a sort of bond" which had developed between two attractive and intelligent people.

In June last year, she had admitted that she loved him "in a way", but a few mouths later described as "absolute nonsense" rumours of a relationship with Mr. Hawke.

In a recent magazine article about the relationship, Ms. D'Alpuget is said to have once boasted that as a teenager she went away with a Polish boyfriend with whom she made love 21 times in three days.

## Aristide calls for peace, more food

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) -In a speech marking the annual day of remembrance for heroes of the Haitian revolution, President Jean-Bertrand Aristide pleaded for peace Monday and called on his people to grow more

food. In the speech Mr. Aristide, who was ousted in a September 1991 coup and returned to power last October, tried to address the concerns of soldiers who will be out of work after a planned reduc-tion in the Haitian Armed

Forces. He also outlined plans to build roads and other projects to create jobs and bolster Haiti's sagging economy.

"Ail Haitians must live in peace and liberty and not in fear. You can say what you want. No more living in hid-

ing," Mr. Aristide said.
"If you are not in the army anymore, there is work for. you in the public works, health, or agriculture ministries. You don't need to be

The Haitian government has announced plans to slash the military from 7,000 men to about 1,500. The plans have sparked a series of vio-

lent protests by soldiers. "The time has come for rifles used for violence to turn into gardening tools to plant sweet potatoes and rice," he said in the 24minute speech, broadcast live on National Radio and Tele-

Speaking from his home in Tahar, outside Port-Au-Prince, Mr. Aristide stressed the need for agricultural de-

He detailed plans to reduce the price of seeds and fertilisers and said that Haiti had received \$5 million in foreign aid to huy farming tools. "The more food that is produced, the lower the

stomach, there is no peace in the head... peace is fertiliser He also announced plans for reforestation, care of the

prices will go," he said.
"When there is hunger in the

handicapped, scholarships for students, street cleaning, rural road development and urban housing.

It was not immediately clear how Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, would pay for the projects.

Willy Paul, a spokesman for the anti-Aristide paramilitary group FRAPH, was unimpressed as be listened to the broadcast

"He (Aristide) is an eternal liar. He says the military will find jobs in the ministries. But Aristide's little guys want to de-Macoutise the government and they think all soldiers are Macoutes. What Aristide says in public is not what he says in private," Mr. Paul said.

The Tonton Macontes were the dreaded paramilitary wing of former Haitian dictator François Duvalier's administration and are widely believed responsible for the deaths of thousands of prodemocracy Haitians in the past three decades.

Clinton takes steps on anti-abortion violence LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas In his statement, Mr. Clin-(R) — President Bill Clinton ton said: "I applaud Americans of conscience who differ Monday condemned violence

against abortion clinics and ordered the U.S. Justice Department to set up a task their opposition to violence."
But he added: "A conforce on clinic protection. In a statement issued at the tinued vigourous debate over start of a brief vacation to abortion is proper. Violence visit friends and family back against those who hold differhome in Little Rock, Mr. Clinton took care to note that

liefs," most of which are expressed peacefully. Two people were killed and five injured at two abortion clinics near Beston last Friday, bringing to five the number of people shot to death in anti-abortion violence in less than two years. A suspect, John Salvi, 22,

has been detained in connec-

tion with the Boston slayings

and a shooting incident at a separate clinic in Norfolk,

Virginia over the New Year's

people on both sides of the issue have "deeply felt be-

in their convictions on abortion but who stand united in

ing opinions is not."

Mr. Clinton said he had instructed Attorney General Janet Reno to head a task force of state, local and federal law enforcement officials to develop plans for clinic security. He also said the U.S. marshals would work with clinics so they would know what steps to

"Today our commitment to the rule of law is being tested by those who believe that their opposition to abortion gives them the right to commit acts of violence, even murder, against their fellow

take in case of potential

citizens who seek only to exercise their constitutional right to choose, or to assist others in exercising that right," he said.

In Boston, Cardinal Bernard Law, head of the city's Roman Catholic archdiocese, condemned the Massachusetts shootings and criticised those who sought to glorify the accused killer. "I don't condone the kill-

ing as I don't condone abortion for the same reason, and that is that I hold every human life sacred," Cardinal Law said Monday night on local television. "I am couvinced that violence begets

Cardinal Law called for a moratorium on all protests at abortion clinics to give both sides time to cool off and rethink their positions.

On Sunday incoming Senate majority leader Boh Dole, a Kansas Republican,

also called for more federal action to stop the violence, including the possibility of using more federal marshals to protect vulnerable clinics.

"Now, whether we can

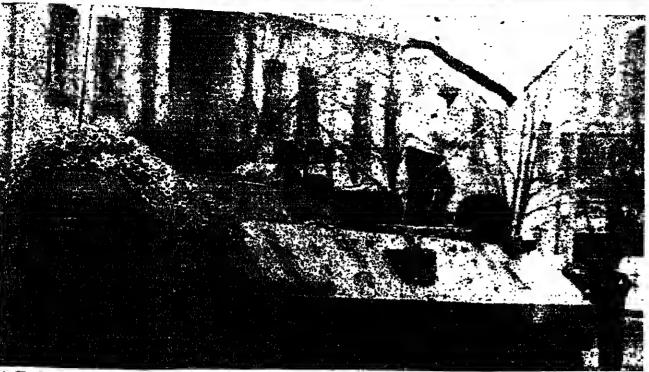
protect every clinic in Amer-ica is probably very highly questionable, but I think at the least, you know, let's take a look. Let's see what - if there's anything - else we can do to stop the violence," Sen. Dole said on CBS Television's Face The Nation.

Abortion rights activists last week accused federal law enforcement authorities of doing too little to controlextremists who are threatening clinics, and stalking and barassing clinic doctors and other personnel. They demanded that the FBI and justice officials treat the violent strains of the antiabortion movement as seriously as they would treat the Klux Klan or a foreign. terrorist group.

SYDNEY (R) — Marine experts and hundreds of volun-

Vanuatu to resone 27 dolphins trapped and starving to death in a shallow lagoon. One young dolphin died Tuesday afternoon as two Australian marine experts, backed by an enthusiastic band of local islanders and tourists, failed to herd the dolphins out of the lagoon using a human chain, a volunteer helper told Reuters by telephone from a nearby resort. The whole town has turned out today to try to help them," said Lynne Cowper, co-manager of the Erakor Island resort, which sits on a small island in the middle of the lagoon near the Vanuatu capital, Port Villa. Anybody who had snorkles and fins... were linking their hands in a big human chain to drive them out but they just would not go," she said. Earher in the day, the two dolphin experts brought in by the Vanuatu government from Australia's Sea World Marine Park tried to free the delphins by using a "curtain of sound," Sea World spokesman David Luxton





A Chechen volunteer holding the national flag walks atop a Russian APC captured in Grozzy, during the battle for the control of the capital of the breakaway Republic of Chechenya.

Chechen sources claim to have routed Russian forces from Grozzy while the Russian government said its troops continue to control a large part of the city (AFP photo)

### Chechenya throws Russian army into sharp relief

MOSCOW (AFP) - The lack of precision by Russian bombers in their attacks on the secessionist republic of Chechenya and the problems experienced by ground troops there fighting a vastly under-equipped enemy have thrown into sharp relief the current poor state of the Rus-

sian military machine. The official Rossiskie Vesti journal has admitted that the precision of bombardments is more or less (only) metres, causing beavy losses and pointless destruction in the target area," confirming reports from inside the war

Inhabitants of the Chechen capital Grozny have seen no-thing of the "laser-guided bombs which practically rule out any civilian victims," earber promised by Russian officers.

The performance of Russian troops since they want into Chechenya three weeks ago have proved the country's former all-powerful

and Daghestan (AFP photo)

LONDON (R) - Frederick

West, the suspected serial kil-

ler at the centre of Britain's

notorious "bouse of horrors"

case, hanged himself, a police

post-mortem examination

murdering 12 young women and girls, was found dead in

Villagers io the idyllic rural

backwater of Much Marcle.

where Mr. West once lived.

do not want him to be buried

there alongside his mother

and father in the local

"He bas taken his secrets

Mr. West, accused of

confirmed Tuesday.

his prison cell Sunday.

military machine is no longer what it was.

In the Red Army's glory days, the whole of the Soviet economy was tuned to defence interests, with the military sector accounting for 90 per cent of the national economy and defence expenditure accounting for 40 per cent of gross national product

But times have changed since the Soviet Union was disbanded in 1991 and the economic crisis has forced the role of the defence sector to he scaled down.

That has led to a shrinking of finance for the army since 1992, while the overall defence budget -- once equal to that of the United States - is now a mere five per cent of the U.S. equivalent.

As a consequence, the army scrapped innovation programmes and has virtually given up even updating its equipment, while hardware replacements shrank to the

extent the army placed an order for just one solitary tank in 1994, according to a Russian Security Council

Commission report. Lack of cash has forced the army to cut back on training its men and scrap manocuvres.

"To hit targets accurately we would have to fly 200 hours per year," one pilot who had taken part in raids on Chechenya told a Russian newspaper last week. "This year, I have only flown 32 hours," he said.

Another problem for the army has been the fact that the demise of the Soviet Union left sections of the military and firms linked to it strewn all across the former Soviet empire, without re-course to subsidies to modemise or convert the structure or even to convert to production of quality civilian

According to joornalist Tatiana Leiya, "the country is now producing only six per

produced in 1991, and only 30 per cent of weapons provided for the army meet mod-

ern technological standards."

A government commission revealed in October that "the Russian armaments system as regards reconnaissance, data collection, the identification and destruction of targets now lags far behind that of its foreign partners."
In addition, research cen-

tres are in crisis, and units charged with testing new technology have virtually disappeared, so that innovations never reach the production

Moreover, Geofisika, a huge aviation technology research centre in the Soviet era is virtually bankrupt," Ms. Leiye says. Its most qualified workers have left the centre which the government owes billions of roubles for completed orders.

With regard to the conventional arms sector, "almost 500 firms have completely or partially shut down production" in recent months, according to the Technical Commission's report.

"The military-industrial complex has kept its wornout production lines even though they were economically deficient and technically obsolete," the report said.

Beaten back by inexperienced Chechen volunteers, the Russian army will if no thing else have proved its case for needing an injection of capital investment.

The necessary resources will be forthcoming and we will then once again have the best army in the world in the tradition of the great Russian military superpower," Russian Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov insisted in an interview published on Dec. 30 by the Krasnaya Zvezda

weapons at a check point on the border between Chechenva army journal. Police: British horror suspect committed suicide door to her cell was being left ers, lawyers questioned open at oight and a warder whether it was now possible was sitting outside to watch for Rosemary West to be guaranteed a fair trial. Frederick West's lawyer, Police said the case against

tral to his controversial campaign to clean up Indian elec-

BEUING (AFP) - The

North Korean Ambassador

Mr. Fini, whose National

outstripping the prime minis-ter in opinion polls last Octo-Members of the coalition,

which collapsed last month when the Northern League withdrew, met to discuss strategy ahead of a session Wednesday with President Scalfaro, now in a second round of talks to end the

ited Nations military author: eventually the interpositioning of United Nations troops ities to respect a global four-

month truce in Bosnia, which was formally accepted the same day by government and rebel Bosnian Serb leaders. The truce took effect at 1100 GMT Sunday.

U.N. reports serious clashes

U.N. negotiators have since then been pressing Serbs based in the Krajina region of Croatia to respect the cessation of hostilities. Around Sarajevo mean-

around Bosnia town

while Bosnian government troops began pulling out of strategic territory above the capital in accordance with the overall truce and are expected to complete the op-eration by mid-day Wednesday, an army spokesman

U.N. military authorities are then scheduled to inspect the area, part of a demilitarized zone near Krupac on Mount Igman south of here. The withdrawal would rep-

resent the first tangible shift in confrontation lines under the cessation of hostilities which calls notably for a separation of forces and

tween opposing armies. Agreement on the withdrawal came Monday in a U.N.-chaired meeting at Sarajevo Airport of Bosnian government and Serb offic-

The mainly-Muslim Bosnian army incurred the wrath of the United Nations here in October when it launched an offensive against Serb units on Mount Igman and entered territory that had been declared a demilitarized zone in

August 1993.

The army agreed to pull back but a Bosnian military spokesman said Tuesday that withdrawal is conditional on U.N. monitoring of the Hrasoica-Igman Road," which is located to the east of Krupac and is the only route connecting Sarajevo with the rest of government-controlled Bosnia.

U.N. officials Monday said they hoped to be able to deploy between confrontstion lines throughout Bosnia

by the end of January. Sarajevo Airport, a vital aid gateway for the Bosnian capital's 380,000 people, was reopened Tuesday three days after shutting down when an aircraft skidded off the run-

way, a U.N. spokesman said. The U.N. expected to bring in a total of 28 burnanitarian and military resupply flights Tuesday.

In Paris, the Defence Ministry said French soldiers had worked since Saturday to clear and repair the runway to allow the quick resumption of relief flights. None of the 11 passengers

and crew aboard a U.N. Ilyashin 76 cargo plane were hurt when it smashed into a mud bank next to the runway after landing in snowy weath er Saturday. Work on remov-ing the plane was confirming Tuesday.

Since the warring parties agreed to a new four-mouth ceasefire which came into effect on Jan. 1, life in Sarajevo has shown diens of improvement

#### an agreement with local Un-Berlusconi suffers new setback in opinion poll

ROME (R) - A new opinion poll showed most Italians do not want Silvio Berlusconi to become prime minister again as survivors of his coalition met Tuesday to discuss whether to continue insisting

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Se-

rious clashes erupted around

the northwestern Bosnian

town of Velika Kladusa Tues-

day despite a comprehensive

ceasefire agreed by the war-

riog factions over the

weekend, the United Nations

U.N. Major Herve Gour-

melon said 78 shells fell on the region, supplemented by

a large number of small arms

cause there is no particular reason for the flareup in

military activity," he said.

The source of the firing

and its effects were not im-

Maj. Gourmeloo added that U.N. officials were trying to determine if the violence was continuing in

the region, where forces loyal

to dissident Muslim leader

Fikret Abdic -- backed by

rebel Serbs from neighbour-

ing Croatia - had been con-

fronting mainly — Muslim

Mr. Abdic Saturday signed

government troops.

mediately clear.

"It's a little disturbing be-

rounds

on a snap general election.

The poll showed that Mr. Berlusconi's popularity was taking a battering at the bands of anti-graft Judge Antonio Di Pietro, the symbol of Italy's drive to eradicate corruption, and neo-fascist leader Gianfranco

The Director Research Organisation poll showed that 68.8 per cent of Italians would choose corruption-busting Judge Di Pietro as opposed to only 31.2 per cent for Mr. Berlusconi if they could vote directly for a prime minister. Premiers are now named

by the president. Judge Di Pietro, who resigned last month complaining of political interference in corruption probes, has been touted as a candidate to succeed Mr. Berlusconi as prime minister but most political commentators consider him a long shot.

The same poll asked Italians to rate the performance of Mr. Berlusconi, Mr. Fini and President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro on a scale of one to 10. They gave Mr. Berinscom only 5.4 as opposed to 6.5 for Mr. Scalfaro and 6.1 for Mr.

Alliance is part of Mr. Ber-lusconi's coalition, began

Tnesday's newspapers were rife with speculationthat Mr. Scalfaro could give

the mandate to Mr. Beriuscom's Treasury Minister Lamiberto Dini, a former directorgeneral of the Bank of Italy and an internationally respected bureaucrat.

The candidacy of Mr. Dini, who has no direct party affiliation, was floated Monday by Defence Minister Cesare Previti, coordinator of Mr. Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and a close aide of the

outgoing prime minister.
Massimo D'Alema, head of the opposition Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), has indicated his group could support Mr. Dini or someone from Forza Italia as interim prime minister if there was agreement that he would lead broad-based government.

Mr. D'Alema said such a government would have to last at least a year and mandated to conclude pending electoral and economic reform before the country votes a

Mr. Berlusconi and his

Mr. Scalfaro to dissolve parliament, saying a snap elec-tion would be the only bonourable way to resolve the crisis. Mr. Berlusconi wants the elections to be held on March 26.

But in the past week, Mr. Berlusconi, a 58-year-old media mogul, has effectively withdraw his demand that he and his caretakergovernment lead the country to early elections.

Most of Mr. Berinsconi's

political opponents, including centrist and leftist groups and the League are opposed to early elections.
Going into the meeting with Mr. Berlusconi, Mr. Fini

said his group still wanted elections at the end of March. But Alberto Michelini, " to belongs to a small centre grouping that supports the coalition, said coalition ment-bers might agree to elections later than March if the next prime minister was someone who represented Forza Italia.

## Indian constitutional crisis looms over poll order

NEW DELHI (R) - India is spending. locked in a constitutional wrangle over a tough-talking election commissioner's threat to cancel polls in five states unless millions of vo-

ters are given identity cards. Chief Election Commissiooer T.N. Seshan bas ordered the states to print photo identity cards for the more than 100 million voters due to elect state assemblies starting next month. Results were set to be amnounced in

While the polls have no direct bearing on the federal government, they are crucial for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's roling Congress Party, which suffered embarassing losses in three of four states that held polls late

last year. Mr. Seshan's order is centions. To the chagrin of many party leaders, he has also curbed political advertising and capped candidates' One of the states, Bibar, is badly behind schedule and appears unlikely to meet the identity-card deadline. As of Jan. 1, cards had been issued to no more than 450,000 voters in Bihar of a total electo-

rate of 58 million. On Tuesday, Mr. Seshan gave Bihar some breathing room, extending a deadline for it to print the cards by six weeks to February 28. But he said that we the only extension Bihar would get.

The other states, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa, are farther advanced in the laborious and costly process, but by no means guaranteed to meet Mr. Seshan's demand.

If Mr. Seshan scrapped elections, President Shankar Dayai Sharma would have to impose direct rule from New Delhi. That would deny the opposition Janata Dal Party, which has accused Mr. Seshan of working "hand in

glove" with Congress, a experience should know only two states they now control, Bihar and Onssa.

Three states have asked the Supreme court to strike down Mr. Seshan's order, claiming the Election Commissioner has no right to take the unprecedented step of depriving voters of their con-stitutional right to elections.

On Tuesday the Supreme court turned down a request that it temporarily stay Mr. Seshan's order as it relates to Bihar, and set a hearing on the case for Jan. 16.

Mr. Sesban has held his ground, saying it will be bet-ter not to hold elections in Bihar if they are not free and

"His messianic zeal to cleanse the system may have prevented him from seeing the practical difficulties in executing his decree." the

Times Of India said in an

"But surely a man of his

editorial

chance to recapture power in too well that intransigence on this sensitive issue can lead to an unprecedented constitutional crisis," it said.

"The right course for the chief election commissioner is to hold the assembly polls without I-cards," the Hindustan Times said.

Bibar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad yaday said identity cards were part of an "international conspiracy" by multinational companies itching to make money on supplying cameras, film, halogen lights and computers, which are re-quired to produce the cards. A poor country like India

could hardly afford to squander away public money in such avoidable tasks," Mr. Yaday said.

"We shall not only move the highest court of the land, but our people will also rise tatorial attitude of Mr. Seshan so that democracy does not slip away from our hands." he said

### 40,000 fires killed 2,600 people in China in 1994

BEIJING (R) — Some 40,000 fires killed more than 2,600 people and injured 4,000 in China in 1994 in the deadliest year on record, and Beijing Tuesday promised tough action in 1995 to prevent such disasters.

"Fire disasters in 1994 were particularly serious." state radio said in a year-end

The number of fires and the death and injury toil did not include forest fires, it Officials said the year was

the deadliest on record and promised implementation of tougher regulations in 1995 with offenders to face stiff Property losses for 1994

were estimated at a record 1.2 billion yuan (\$141 million), the radio said. Most of the fires were in factories but fires in entertainment places increased rapidly, it said.

Major and disastrous fires soured by 28.2 compared with 1993, the radio said. One-quarter of the deaths along with a fourth of all fires were sparked in places of Several thousand enter-

to the grave and we don't

want those secrets buried

bere. It would become a

said one resident of the west

Mr. West, whose home in

the western England town of

Gloucester was dubbed "the

house of horrors" after police

dug up human remains there.

had been taken off a special

prisoo suicide watch after

Security was strengtheoed around his wife Rosemary.

who has been accused along

with her husband of nine of

Police officers said the

being assessed as safe.

the inurders.

macabre tourist attraction.

of England village.

tainment halls across China have been closed in response to an emergency directive of the State Council, China's cabinet, in December ordering priority for fire prevention measures and immediate closure of substandard estab-

The cabinet order followed China's deadliest fire in 15 years in which 325 people, 288 of them children, were killed on Dec. 8 when flames engulfed a cinema hall in the oorthwestern oil town of Karamay during a cultural

Nineteen officials have been arrested or punished in connection with the Karamay

A nationwide construction spree in which builders ignored fire safety precautions in favour of cost-cutting and speed was partly to blame for the heavy toll, it

Many buildings used highly inflammable materials for decorations with poorly de-

signed exits, further contri-buting to the high death toll since in several major fires many of the dead were asphyxiated by poisocous smoke from flaming mate-

Rosemary West "remained

active" but ber lawyer said

she should be released for

Leo Goatley said the case

against Rosemary was flimsy. He claimed Frederick had

made a candid admission in a

police interview and had said

his wife was indocent of com-

After Inrid coverage of

Frederick West's case was

splashed across several pages

of British tahloid newspap-

lack of evidence.

In November, 233 people, died in a fire at a dance hall in northeastern Liaoning pro-vince that was sparked by a burning oewspaper tossed

under a sofa. Many of the dead suffocated because of noxious fumes from burning decorations and were unable to flee hecause there was only a single exit reached along a narrow, winding passage.

The mayor of the town of Fuxin was dismissed, 13 others punished and two managers of the hall arrested.

An official of the Ministry of Public Security's Fire De-partment said 1994 was the worst in history in terms of deaths and property losses. Yn Lei, president of the China Firefighting Association, has said the high death toil is partly to blame on ageing and madequate firefighting equipment as well as a dearth of laws and lax enforcement of fire prevention regulations.

Tony Miles, said the cover-

"I am appailed by the

coverage in some of the tab-

loids. I think it just raises

fundamental issues as to the

responsibility of the press in

this country in relation to a

case of this kind," he said.

Couocil media watchdog,

said: "There will be great

difficulty, if not impossibility

in her getting a fair trial."

Sir Louis Blom-Cooper, a former chairman of the Press

age had shocked him.

He warned that many tall buildings, underground projects, oil and petrochemical facilities and public places were still fire hazards, the newspaper said. A fire that swept through a

ballroom in the ceotral Chinese city of Nanjing, killing two people, seriously injuring four and destroying the building at the weekens occurred after local Fire Department warnings that the dance hall was unsafe, state radio said.

A fire in November in the northeastern city of Jilin killed two people in a disco and spread to the provincial musenm next door, destroying the 70-million-yearold fossil of an 11-metre-long dinosaur and several other

The museum had rented out space to the disco, which failed to take adequate fire precautions. Eighteen officials, including the city mayor, have been punished. I many visiting his statues to pay their respects, the staterun Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said Tues-

to China said Friday that Kim Jong-II was in total control of the country, despite his fai-jure to deliver an annual Visiting the statues over New Year, they "made deep bows, looking back with yearning" on the life of the president, KCNA said in a nationwide address at the

"Kim Jong-II is the sup-reme leader of our party, the state and the army," Ambas-sador Chun Chang-Jun told reporters here, adding that report monitored bere. The fatherly leader en-deavoured till the last moments of his life to feed and ciothe our people better," the New Year's address — a tradition started by Mr. Kim Jung-Bae, vice-director. Kim's late father Kim II-Sung of the production department - had been replaced by a of the State Agricultural long editorial carried by ma-Commission, was quoted by KCNA as saying.
The president died on July jor North Korean newspap-

"The joint editorial... is in last year. accordance with the inten-tions of the Dear Leader Kim Meanwhile maoy South Koreans regard the United States as the country most Jong-II," the ambassador likely to help unify Korea and The delay in Mr. Kim's succession to bis father's tifavour a continued presence of U.S. troops in the South, tles as president and ruling according to a poll published

party chief has fuelled spe-Tuesday. culation of a power struggle At the same time, Japan in the North involving the topped the list of potential opponents to the unification of Korea, with \$1.6 per cent armed forces. There have also been rumours that Mr. of those questioned believing Kim might be seriously ill. However, Mr. Chu stresthe former colonial ruler sed that "strengthening the woold be agianst such a military around Kim Jong-Il"

would be a top national prior-The survey of 1,000 people by the World Research Instiity in 1995. North Koreans appear to tute also revealed widespread still be in monroing for concern over Japan's per-President Kim Il-Sung, with crived arms buildup, with 63.3 per cent saying it could

Kim Jong-Il is in total control — ambassador eventually pose a military threat to the peninsula. Some 85.1 per cent be-lieved that the United States

would be the most influential country in the drive towards reunification, followed by China with 60.9 per cent, Japan with 52.4 per cent and Russia with 40.4 per cent. The poll, commissioned by

Yonhap News Agency, also revealed that 57.6 per cent saw the United States as the most supportive country in move towards one Korea But 98 per cent said Washiogtoo shoold hold prior consultations with

South Korea before making any compromise deals with Pyongyang. In the poll, 65 per cent praised the U.S. for freezing nnclear facilities in the North, believing the U.S.-North Korea nuclear accord

in October has eased tension

by easing the reclusive North

towards gradual opening. In a separate development, a Seoul government spokesman said Tuesday South Korea this month will officially launch a team to support the provision of lightwater reactors worth some \$4

billion to North Korea. "We expect the team to be launched by the middle of this month," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The team, whose chief has

yet to be named, will be composed of four divisions policy coordination, interna-tional cooperation, financial support, and construction and technology. Division chiefs will come

nomy Board, Foreign Ministry and Trade and Industry istry, the spokesman told AFP. An advisory commission to the team is also slated for formation, comprising offi-cials from the defence, en-

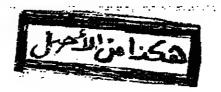
from the National Unifica-

tion Board, Finance and Eco-

vironment, science and technology ministries. Under a landmark deal in Geneva last October, North Korea will receive two lightwater reactors for power generation from the West in return for neutralising suspect

nuclear programme. An international consortium, the Korea Energy Development Organisation (KEDO), is due to be launched in February to provide the North with two 1,000megawatt reactors. The cost of the project has been put at

\$4 billion. Aside from South Korea. which will shoulder the bulk of the financial burden, the United States, Japan, China, Russia and several other Western countries are expected to join the consor-



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### Serious matter

THE MINISTRY of Energy seems to be heading, in collaboration with the Internations Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), to introduce nuclear energy and nuclear energy into the country. The IAEA, according to initialistry officials, has so far pumped \$2 milion into the 8-year-old project that aims a establishing an experimental reactor before the end of the century. The total cost of the project would amount to \$13 million. "Most of the cost would be borne by the reasury," one official from the ministry was greated as saying.

Among the many uses of the reactor and the associated nuclear centre is research on agricultural products, medical applications and training of nuclear contamination clearing teams. This is fine. Although nuclear research findings are being made available by the more advanced in the field, Jordan could probably make studies on its own preducts in order to improve yields or fight certain types of pest. The Kingdom, also sineated next door to a nuclear armed councry, should train its own teams to clear nuclear contamination. The country in this advanced age also needs to use the application of nuclear energy in the field of medicine.

However, three issues should figure high in the minds of those who plan, supervise and execute this project. One is cost, two is safety and three is the fact that Jordan is not in need of such an expensive and lethal source

We need to remember that the expenses of such a project, once put in motion, will be difficult to control. The cost of both the soft and hardware components of nuclear facilitier is prohibitive. Planning as such might not be, but the training of staff, which can only be done abroad, is extremely expensive.

On the other hand, the location of the reactor in the environs of Amman or close to the Jordan Valley and the seismological rift. mokes it extremely dangerous for the inhabitants of the capital in case of an earthquake or a nuclear leak. It is therefore most adviseable that such a project be built in the eastern desert away from the population centres and the earthquake zone.

In addition, Jordan which plans to satisfy all of its electric energy for already planned projects can ill afford to produce electricity from an expensive process like capitalintensive nuclear power. The Kingdom has been negotiating with neighbouring countries io link electrical grids which should take care of the country's needs well into the 21st

Nuclear energy and nuclear applications are a serious matter that should not be resitured into unless all aspects of the issue are debated and a near consensus is reached on their resolution.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily Tuesday demanded that the Russians immediately halt their attacks on Chechenya and its capital Grozny. The battles that raged inside the Chechen capital have proved that the Russian invaders are facing a long and ferocious war inside the city with the Chechen fighters proving to be skilful in warfare, said the paper. The Chechens have risen to the occasion and met the Russian challenge despite the disadvantage in men and equipment. said the paper. But the Chechens are defending their own homelano and that gives them courage to pursue their fight against the invaders, said the paper. There is no doubt that the Russians who are invading Chechenya are motivated by the wishful thinking of reviving the old dreams of the Russian empire but their dreams are being dashed away by the heroic and daring resistance by the Chechen people, added the paper. We sincerely hope that the legendary resistance of the Chechens will force the Moscow government to change its stand and we also hope that the Western nations would interfere and save the lives of the civilian population, said the paper.

TriE OSLO agreement between Israel and the Palestimians has obviously opened the door for Israel to reach the depth of the Arah World and win the favour of the whole world, said a columnist in Al Ra'i. The Israelis were even eccorded unusual welcome at Casablanca conference and staeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's speech was applauded warmly by the Arah and Muslim delegates, said riusni Ayesh. Instead of returning the favour, Israel has ciosed and continues to close the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip, preventing the Palestinians from earning their livelihoods and continuing the process of building Jewish settlements on Arab land, said the writer. Instead of showing a sign of tolerance, the Israelis are continually exercising repressive measures against the Palestinians.

### **Human Rights File**

By Waleed Sa'di

## Criminals must be punished

IN A recent criminal case, a man received a one-year sentence for killing his sister in the name of family honour. This sentence and many similar ones, meted year in and year out in this country, are still taking place in the mid-nineties when we are all on the threshold of the 21st century. These anomilies are also occurring at a time when we all pride ourselves as nationals of a modern state that is trying to become a full-fledged member of the democratic club. Since the so-called crimes of honour belong to a bygone era that befits more the times of "Jahilia," or days of darkness, it is high time that they are addressed straight in the face by both the public and private sectors of our

To be sure, crimes of passion are common features of most societies in the world. Crimes involving the taking of lives and committed in the heat of emotions are commonly treated as second degree murders and their perpetrators usually receive punishments that don't call for the capital penalty. There is a near universal rule of the thumb on such crimes that regards them as less painful for society than premeditated murder committed with malice and aforethought as the criminal law jargon goes about describing it. Yet the kind of honour crimes that take place in our country are by and large committed with malice and

Still our court system dishes out punishments on the "killers" as if they are even less than second degree murders and at the end the fathers or brothers or husbands who commit these crimes get scot-free for all intents and purposes. There is an abovious human rights issue here that purposes. There is an abovious manual rights issue near man is not confined to the right to life per se but extends to discrimination against women by making them easy prey to precipitous accusations that end up being ill-founded in the

It so happens that our legislation incriminates sexual relations outside the institution of marriage. Our criminal code is clear on the unlawfulness of sexual contacts outside the bondage of marriage and punishes the guilty irrespective of their sex. This is not to mention our religion and traditions that frown on extramarital relations and prohibit them in the clearest possible terms. Yet neither our body of laws on such subjects nor our religion tolerate the taking of the law into our hands by taking the lives of members of our families in cold blood. The tragedy is compounded by the fact that in so many cases the "murdered" person is not guilty of the charge in the first place.

What is most disturbing about this continuous phe nomenon is the observance that the various governments in nomenon is the observance that the various governments in this country have opted to stay away from the issue and treated it as simply too hot to touch. Parliament has likewise preferred to stay aloof from this major social problem by ignoring it altogether and by never allowing its inclusion on its agenda. The same or identical treatment has been given to the so-called tribal justice where the innocent members of one tribe ends up paying for the wrongdoings of other members of his tribe. This callous administration of injustice soes on also before our even administration of injustice goes on also before our eyes without as much arousing the filmsiest concern from our people. Thank God the ministers of interior and justice have finally spoken up on this subject and promised much awaited action. How can we still call ourselves a modern state or a country that faithfully respects human rights and stands out as a primary champion of humanitarianism across the board when such atrocities go on being perpetrated in the most callous manner. Where is the human right of the girl or women killed in cold blood in the name of "bonour" or the human right of the man whose blood was equally shed in cold blood as some kind of retribution for the shedding of the blood of a man who belonged to another tribe. Something woefully archaic about these practices that blemish the country's commitment to human right and respect for the rule of law. Isn't it ment to human right and respect for the rule of law. Isn't it high time that we all did something about these two manifestations of social disorder. If time is indeed ripe for doing something about them, shouldn't the gover spearhead the national effort for their eradication first from our minds and then from our practices and traditions.

## Clinton's bible, Goldstein's hermeneutics

By Michael Prior

GOD OCCUPIES the high moral ground even in societies in which there is little more than lip-service paid to him. Nothing com-pares with having him on one's side. On the White House lawn in September 1993, President Bill Clinton introduced the leaders of Israel and the Palestinians, saying that both people pledged themselves to a shared future, shaped by the values of the Torah, the Koran and the Bible. Both President Clinton's and Premier Yitzhak Rabin speeches referred to the Bible, while Chairman Yasser Arafat began his with the traditional Muslim invocation of Allah. The Bible is a significant source-book in the confused concept of the Judeo-Christian tradition, while Muslims look to the Koran for divine guidance.

President Clinton, fearing that his speech required more work, had been unable to sleep on the might before the signing. He woke at 3 a.m. and reached for his Bible. He read the Book of Joshua and portions of the New Testament. The Washington Post report does not reveal whether the president was able to sleep after the blood-curdling lection from Joshua, nor, if so, whether he suffered any violent dreams! In any case, his mode of address later in the day was a mixture of biblebased exhortation in the Baptist tradition and shrewd political manoeuvring. As if to consolidate the U.S.'s self-portrayal as an honest broker, the biblical imagery of his speech was supplemented by a quota-tion from the Koran.

The Hebron massacre of Feb. 25, 1994 made the Arafat-Rabin handshake and the high hopes of the September declaration look like romantic memories. Britain's Chief Rabbi, Jonathan Sachs, expressed shock and grief at the massacre: "Violence is evil. Violence committed in the name of God is doubly evil. Violence against those engaged in worshipping God is unspeakably evil." Mr. Rabin told the Knesset that Baruch Goldstein and his followers were a foreign implant and an errant weed. Sensible Judaism," he declared, "spits you out. You are a shame on Zionism and an embarrassment to Judaism." Fine words, but what about much of the Book of Deuteronomy, the Book of Joshua and, in particular, the Book of Esther, the prescribed biblical reading for the Jewish festival of Purim?

The five-man enquiry into the Hebron massacre concluded that Dr. Goldstein acted alone, and its 338-page report exonerates the Israeli government and army command of any responsibility for the murder of the Palestinian worshippers in the mosque. It concedes that security was lax - five soldiers, three of whom had overslept, had failed to turn up for duty but there was no question of any collusion between settlers and the army. In any case, the biblicism of the settlers will go unchecked, and Mr. Rabin promised to install metal detectors to prevent arms being brought into mosques in fu-

Contrary to the initial reports, Goldstein was no ordinary man whose mental state the tensions of the area had triggered into a moment of insanity. He was steeped in the Bible, and would have surpassed even President Clinton in having his mind shaped by the values of the Torah. It is highly likely that his bedtime reading for Purim, which occurred on that fateful day, was from the Book of Esther, the biblical text which celebrates the fightback of Jews.

#### The Book of Esther

We learn from that book that King Ashasnerns (Xerxes) too could not sleep on the eve of Queen Esther's banquet, and called for the annals to be brought and read to him. Xerxes' nocturnal reading led to a bad outcome for Haman, the enemy of the Jews, and, subsequently, for many more of their enemies, near and far. Goldstein would have read how, with divine approval, the Jews could avenge their enemies on the appropriate date (subsequently in the story of Purim). Details follow in chapter nine: "The Jews struck down all their enemies with the sword... five hundred men in the citadel of Susa alone," and that, on hearing the good news, Queen Esther asked the king for an extension of his decree for the morrow also. On the 14th day of the month of Adar the Jews killed 300 men in the city. It is a small mercy that the avenging Jews of the Book of Esther took a day off on the 15th day of the mouth.

Goldstein would have read that things were even worse outside Susa. On the 13th day of the month the Jews slaughtered 15,000. Mercifully, the Jews of the province rested and feasted on the 14th day. Xerxes ordered for the 14th and 15th days of the month of Adar an annual commemoration of the days on which Jews had rid themselves of their enemies, had had their sorrow turned into gladness and mourning into a boliday. Jews were to exchange presents and give gifts to the poor. Goldstein's biblical her-

meneutics, alas, went further, and authorised a onelegendary slaughter, apparently sanctioned by God's word. It is no wonder, then, that Rabbi Ya'acov Perrin, one of the religious leaders in Goldstein's settlement in Kiryat Arba, eulogising him at his funeral, declared, "one million Arabs are not worth a Jewish fingernail," and another mourner declared Goldstein to be "the greatest Jew alive". Some of the more dubious values of the Torah, and the Books of Joshna and Esther, had come back to haunt the civilised world, and, in his own circle of like-minded biblical interpretation, Goldstein was on the verge of canonisation.

However, he is not alone in a literalist interpretation of the Bible. Such literalism has justified the butchering of people in the Crusades and in North and South America in the past, sup-ports the expulsion and humiliation of Palestinians in the present, and has given divine approval for various other dehumanising regimes elsewhere.

The Bible poses a fundamental moral problem for anyone who takes it at face value. There is no shortage of post-biblical texts, within both Judaism and Christianity, which point to its alleged divine origins. Goldstein would surely have known his Misboah which in its tract, the Sanhedrin, states that all Israelites bave a share in the world to come except "those who assert that the Torah is not from heaven". The Torah, in a crude interpretation, must be accepted in its totality, and in all its

The Torah, however, is fundamentally rooted in the escape from Egypt of the Hehrew slaves, who en-tered and occupied a land which was already occupied by others. The occupation of another people's land realistically demands systematic pillage and killing. What distinguishes the biblical account of this activity is that it is presented as having not only divine approval, but as happening at the command off God. This presentation of God as a monster gloating over the destruction of others must be rejected out of hand by any one who presumes that the conduct of an ethical God, at the very least, will not fall lower than that of ordinary secular decency.

Encounter with the contemporary political realities of the Holy Land raises important questions for stu-dents of the Bible. The commandment; "You shall destroy all the peoples that the Lord your God will give over to you, your eye shall not pity them" (Deut 7.16), and the statement that The Lord your God will clear away these nations before you little by little... and you shall make their name perish from under heaven" (Deut. 7.22-24), are seen in a new light, when one meets the Palestinians, the modern counterparts of the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Periz-zites, the Hivites and the Jebusites. In our society such biblical sentiments, rightly, would be regarded as an incitement to racial hatred. On moral grounds, one is forced to question whether the Torah continnes to provide divine legitimacy for the occupation of other people's land, and their virtual annihilation. By any reasonable standards, the first five books of the Old Testament are seen to contain racist

and xenophobic sentiments They promote an attitude of ethnocentricity, which appears to receive the highest possible legitimacy in the form or divine approv-

Contemporary liberation

theologies, like all theologies, look to the Bible for their underpinning. It is not difficult to discern within the Old Testament a whole range of themes which fit the concept of liberation very comfortably (e.g. liberation from oppression in Egypt, Bahylon etc.). However, does God, who is on the side of the oppressed Israelites, and who frees them from Egypt, remain on their side when they become the oppressor? If the Bible is looked to as a theological basis for liberation theology elsewhere, the sad reality is that in its place of origin it has be-come an equally well founded basis for a theology of oppression. Anyone with moral sensi-

tivities, and concern for the dignity of other peoples, must reject the kind of bibhicism which sees the core of bihlical revelation to be frozen in the premitive concepts of Chosen People and Promised Land. The biblical claim of the divine gift of land is integrally linked with the claim of divine approval for the barbarous extermination of the indigenous people (e.g. Deut 20. 16-18). It would be a far more ethical hermenentical stance to recognise in the biblical legend the attribution to God of his approval for the de facto Israelite possession of the land, and the extermination of the inhabitants, whose presence was an obstacle to the accomplishments of that

Neither the book of Joshua, nor the book of Esther is the best distraction for a person transfixed between wakefulness and sleep. They should not be accorded a favoured place in the search for moral exhortation. Hotel managers may need to censor their Gideon Bibles, lest their clients be driven to appaling behaviour in the wake of sleepless nights spent reading the more racist, xenophobic and militaristic elements within the biblical

President Clinton may well have had the Hebrew prophetic tradition in mind as he appealed to the Bible. For any religious Jews. however, the noble traditions of the Hehrew prophets, which are the favourites of Christians, are of secondary importance when compared with the Torah.

Since there is little hope, therefore, that the modest moral exhortations of the Fourth Geneva Convention could ever displace the divinely sanctioned, and often divinely mandated, decrees of some of the traditions of the Torah, we can only hope that Prime Minister Rabin's metal detectors will be in place before Purim next year.

Middle East International.

## Moscow's image of Chechens smacks of Soviet-style propaganda

By Anatoly Verbin Reuter

SAMASHKI, Russia – For an ordinary Muscovite a Chechen usually means ruthless gangster, an image cultivated by the Kremlin i its attempt to end to Chechenya's independence

Cheehens do contro some of Russia's most ruthle criminal gangs. But gang ters are notably absent from the crowds fighting Russia troops trying to capture the regional capital Grozny. It is mostly ordinary pec

ple who are killed in Rusian air raids and it is ordir ery citizens who mostly ma-Chechan positions. They have little in com

mon with the image cr sted by Russian officia. dom, which is coming t look increasingly like the old Soviet propagano

Nor do the Russian so diers freezing in the ic hle the bloodthirsty mons ters described in the prop aganda of Chechen leade Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Most of them have little information and even less motivation to die in a wawhich they believe is no:

Both sides keep killing each other and one result of the conflict appears to be clear already — Russia. Ewkward attempt to en ! hechenya's independent: bid has revived the nort. Caneasian peoples' centuries-old mistrust of

Chechens fought the Russian empire's advanc in the Caucasus for decade; when President Boris Yel: sin sent troops into Chechenya on Dec. 11, it simply opened a new charter in hostilities. Whoever worked ou:

with Mr. Yeltsin the dec. sion to send troops into Chechenya clearly had little ilea of the traditions and the spirit of the Chechen

Mr. Dudayev's profanda also skilfully uses remories of 1944 when Soviet dictator Josef Stalin deported the entire ( hechen population to cent al Asia for more than a cocade, accusing them of collaborating with Nazi in-

Many Chechens would gree that Mr. Dudayev has mined Chechenya. Many of them are bitter about the the vast sums which have come from local oil refine:s and disappeared. Mr. Dudayev had promised to use the money to buy arms which never materialised Instead, Mr. Dudayev's losest allies spent their : me building huge palaces . nd rumours abound about

i le huge fortune which he as accumulated in foreign By the time Russian noops rolled into ng industry was at a standill, salaries and pensions ad not been paid for nonths and popular discon-

ant was on the rise. For most Chechens, Mr. Judayev does not seem to latter any more. "With or without

Judayev, we are going to tight for our own land," nany say. "Yeltsin has ffended us by threatening ie security of our homes, thich is the most sacred ning for any Chechen." Fear is forbidden for

Chechen men and Russian ir raids on Grozny do not eem to have impressed the ocal population, at least those who stayed. Chechen men at war do not drink Licohol or shave, Chechens in Samashki,

: bout 40-km west of Grozny, said they had not get reached the stage of declaring their own all-out holy yar against the Russians.

## Many challenges ahead for 3. Africa

JOHANNESBURG ---South Africa heads into 1995 savouring its hard-wo'i democracy but with an eer . nomy firing on too fe .. eylinders to offer much more to the black majorit so far than the vote.

Economic analysts report more good news than bal on an economy that during the past year has crept out of its longest recession c 1 record. But daunting chaenges lie ahead.

There is increasing rec-

ognition that South Africa: Chamber of Business said Amid the inevitable diruptions up to and beyon l April's historie all-rac: elections, the econom, failed to gather the mome. tum many had hoped for a; lemocracy dawned.
Economists estimate ec

nomic growth for 1994 wo per cent, which almost double the ra: only half that of the more optimistic forecasts made early this year and still lags population growth.

The economy is a mixe I

bag of a worrisome agr cultural sector, a minir sector in the doldrums, but a manufacturing sector showing distinct sings (f stirring and reaching out 1) the levels of pre-recessic 1 1990," said independe t economist Edward Osbor A number of financi: 1

houses predict the grow. 1 tempo will quicken to 3.(-3.5 per cent in 1995, entre ching a platform for the healthiest cycle in many

The relatively peaceful transition from white minority rule and the postapartheid government's repeated commitment to figcal and monetary disciplin: and to developing investo friendly policies have boosted husiness conf dence.

However, with the near government yet to build a rack record against which it can be judged, forei 1 nvestors remain wary.

Analysis say that with ur employment running at nearly 50 per cent, the country needs sustained."

of foreign capital to dent

Officials rule out quickfix solutions. Reserve (central) Bank Governor Chris Stals said recently that the economy, row freed from ant. partheid sauctions, needed sainful reforms to promote

rowth and prosperity. "We have an overprotacted domestic economy 1 at must now face some ainful corrections," Le s id, adding that certain incustries were not ready to take on the highly competi-tive players of industrialised and newly developed cour-

Meantime the govern-rient, led by President Nelson Mandela's African l ational Congress (ANC), faces a stem test in managing expectations among the ve-to-one black majority or rapidly enhaced living

andards, analysts said. They said 1995 would te : n important year in setting cirection for the economy. and would provide the first t ue indication of the new Lovernment's economie management in the face of such pressure.

In its favour, there is vidence that local fixed investment has shown signs of significant revival, and the 13covery of industrialise i conomies and the jump in orld commodity prices ould benefit South Afrs's mineral and manufart ming exports.

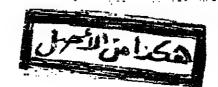
After good, early sumer rains, however, a se-TE mid-season drought t\_eatens the important 1 griculture sector.

One of the hottest topics of debate centres on the prospect of scrapping ex-change controls, which are blamed by critics for ini ibiting foreign investment.

Mr. Stals, concerned ab-

out sparse foreign exchange reserves that cover the cost of barely arx weeks' imorts, favours a gradual reration rather than a big tang full scale removal riany commentators call

Analysts believe he could s art the ball rolling in 1995. But he is expected to move cautiously, having pointed to Russia's currency turmoil growth of 4.0-6.0 per cert to illustrate the risks of a supported by large dollo-s remature-liberalisation.



# Iraq's innocents suffer the loss of childhood

During the Gulf conflict, most children in Baghdad thought they would not live to grow up. Sanctions are making it hard to forget the trauma of

-- Felicity Arbuthnot reports

AS CHRISTMAS and new year are celebrated, in iraq. children there no longer await such highlights in the calendar. Surviving under what is arguably the most draconian embargo in modorn times, they canno expect to celebrate hirt'sday parties either; food is minimal and there is no

money for gifts.

When Professor Magne
Raundalen, the worldrenowned child psychologist and veteran observer of children's terrors in almost every war zone in the world, travelled to traq v ith the International Harvard Study Team to report on the mental health o: the children to UNICEF after the Gulf war, he said he found "the most traumatised child population" he

games, because the games remind them of dead playchildren lost friends or siblings in the conflict.

At the time of the Gulf sidential area of the infamous bombing of the Al Ameriyah shelter, 84 per cent of children tho ght they would lose their firmily. Almost the same percentage thought they would not

calen, these children are "trapped within their trauma." They are unuble to confide in their parents because they know that when it came to protecting them from bombs and mis-



had ever encountered. Prof. Raundalen's studies show what he describes as a

unique phenomenon: trauma which could usually be expected to lessen with time is intensifying because of the climate of hunger and deprivation. Iraqi children have given up playing mates. Studies have shown that around 80 per cert of These children are niore

traumatised than those who have witnessed the murder of a parent, or those who survived the ferry Hera.d of Free Enterprise disaster. said Prof. Raundalen, who is the director of the Centre for Crisis Psychology in Eergen in Norway.

war, in the middle-clas. re-

th bottom, boiled when According to Prof. R.unvast water tanks burst. it was mid-morning hr ak and childrens' voice rang out; the sound of small ru ming feet reverberated an there were colourful marals of flowers, children and animals on the painted

outer walls of the building. Had nne not known about the bombing, it appeared very normal.

Inside, the headteacher related how 12-year-old Naisam lost 11 members of his family and extended family in the shelter. Only he and his mother remained. Another child had lost his brother; a teacher had lost her mother, two sisters and two brothers. Samira, another teacher, smiled out from the school register. She died in the shelter with four of her chil-

"It is very difficult, we all have this injury inside us. But we have to be strong. for the children." the head

They are not right, they are lethargic, without energy. they don't play games. We try to distract them, but we lack books, writing paper, pens, pencils. Since the embargo we have had to make do as best we can."

Among the items veloed by the U.N. sanctions committee, are consignments of ping-pong balls, tennis balls, childrens' bicycles and clothes, pencils and sbarpeners, erasers and school notebooks.

The school at Al Ameriyab is working closely with a trauma centre, the first of its kind in Iraq, which has been set up by Prof. Raundalen and his colleagues. met some of the children and heard their stories from Saana Jezrawi, the psychologist in charge.

Ali is nearly seven. His father was a solider who was killed in the Gulf war. Unlike many, his body was recovered and brought home to be buried. Ali was present at the funeral and the graveyard is near his home. Every day for two years Ali ran to the grave and tried to dig it up, saying "it's all right, daddy, you can come-out now, the menwho put you here have gone

Another is Luay, whom Prof. Raundalen met on his first post-war visit to Baghdad. During the war, Luay joined a local group that rescued people from bombed nouses. A small child, he could crawl into spaces inaccessible to adults. He told Prof. Raundalen how he wriggled into one building to find "the

body of a mother." Further on, he found the body of her baby. He crawled back through the debris and placed the baby nn the mother's breast and wrapped her still-warm arms around it. The 10year-old said: "The world is out of order.

But his worst memory was of finding a head. In the same house he lifted up a jacket to find a head underneath. Luay had carefully wrapped the head and brought it out for identification. He says he dreams every night that he is bringing the head out of a pocket to be identified.

In July 1993, the U.N. food and Agricultural Commission noted "with deep concern, the prevalence of several commonly recognised pre-famine indicators" in Iraq. Rations of basics such as tea, sugar, rice and oil provide only one third of the calorific intake the World Health

Organisation estimates is the lowest for nutritional requirements.

Sabah's mother decided she would give her family a treat. She used the month's sugar rations and some hoarded condiments to bake her husband a surprise birthday cake. Arriving home. he was furious that their supplies had been. squandered on such a luxury. His wife walked into the street, doused herself with the only cheap comable petrol — and set her-

When she was four, Nihal went to Colorado with her parents who were post graduate students. Amid the atmosphere of parannia that surrounded the run-up to the Gulf war, the family was expelled. Two days be-

had settled into their new home in Baghdad - and a new baby brother was just a week old. Nihal believed that the war could not happen. She had grown up in the United States. When the bombing started and glass fell into the baby's cot. Nihal's father tore the feather pillows and duvets from the beds and piled them up in a bathroom without windows. The family sheltered there, using pillows and duvets as protec-

fore the war began, they

Ali. Luay. Sabah and Niahl and others at the centre are the lucky ones. They are receiving help and support. All Irag's children a third of the population is under 15 - need counsellign so that normality and childhood can be restored.



Irsal children watch a civilian building in southern Iraq hit by an allied air raid (AFP photo)

## Rwanda recovery faces host of obstacles

By Julian Bedford

IJGALI - The dead from P.wanda's genocide have become skeletons while the Living still struggle with a host of obstacles to reviving their country.

"The massacres have gone so deep, it will be difficult to find forgive-ness," says U.N. special representative Shaharyar Khan. "If I was a perpetrator I don't think I could

ever forgive myself."
"Until there is justice, victims will find it hard to forgive," he told Reuters five months after the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) ended the genocide of up to one million people.
Since last July, Rwanda

has had a new government, but progress on helping it recover from the worst genocide in Africa this century has been agonisingly slow despite international

Few of the more than one million Hutz refugees who fled to Tanzania, Zaire and Burundi have gone home. They are victims of intimidation by the former Hutu administration behind the genocide and fear re-venge attacks by the RPF or their return.

Some of those Hutus who did return, braving the threats of the Hutu government in exile in the refugee camps abroad, were victims of reprisal attacks by the RPF or Hutu extremist. Aid has poured in fr.m

more than 100 agencies, but there has been little direct he o to the new government from foreign donors suspi-cic as of the administration in the capital Kigali. n shell-pocked ministries

siles, adults were as helpless

Rayad, aged 10, said he

wis tried to lay his own

If I see anything burn-in, immediately I remem-

be the shelter. I went to

se: the shelter and I turned

m: face and I wanted to

waik away, and I wasn't

lo king and a car bumped

m. and I fell on my face."

Recently I walked the

fe yards from the horror

of the shelter at Al Amer-

iv. n. Those on the top level

were burned alive, those on

as children.

he sai**d**.

ghosts to rest.

wi h little more than desks ar 1 chairs, unpaid civil serve its try to implement policit's without a budget as their problems increase dai-ly with an influx of Tutsis who fled their country durin; massacres in the 1950s. lewcomers from the Tu:si minority have moved in o houses, farms and he incesses of the Hutus still languishing in camps aboad and have switched th international language Kigali from French to

iany of those who witne sed but survived last ye -'s slanghter from April un il May remain trauma-

Blank faces greet visitors to a Kigali orphanage as children still cannot con-front the horror that their

One of the men entrusted by he RPF with rebuilding the country, Prime Minister Fa 1stin Twagiramungu, say :: "We have three major pr blems - refugees, sec mity and land — and the the e are interlinked.

live in a country without security and the continued presence of over one milito of our people outside ou borders is a threat to For them to come

There is no way one can

home, these people must feel included in our country. To achieve that, this government must show no hypocrisy, especially over land. We must not exact justice over land tenure.

"If there is to be justice for those who suffered during the massacres - and remember Hutus as well as Tutsis were killed - there must be justice over land,

Government insistence that properties be returned to their original owners has often been ignored by local anthorities, who favour newcomers over returnees tainted by the genocide.

The chain of command from head of state to town mayor is weak in a country where communication was knocked back to the Stone Age by retreating troops or militiamen, who looted or destroyed everything to ensure that the RPF inherited

Until international funds arrive and the government buys the loyalty of its army and civil servants, its an-

thority is weak. Mr. Khan says financing will start to arrive early in 1995 from the World Bank and European Union (EU) and hopes this will get the state moving, but adds only a basic minimum has been

"It is like a shipwreck. The passengers have been saved from the sea with humanitarian aid. Now the funds are coming to rebuild

the ship. But the ship will need new equipment and that means a lot more

"Even a government of angels cannot deliver without money," the U.N. enthem and see how they go."

Mr. Khan says he hopes the government proves trustworthy and delivers on human rights pledges be-cause the future of Rwanda is bleak while the refugees remain in Zaire, Tanzania

Before refugees start re-turning in meaningful num-bers. Mr. Khan says the intimidation campaign must end and the government must make a greater effort to be more welcoming to new arrivals.

Mr. Khan is hopeful that money will allow the government to present a more welcoming face and pay the army repair the damaged infrastructure and restart the wrecked judicial sys-

"If you include land settlement and proprietary rights, then justice is the single most important issue facing the government," Mr. Khan said.

two things: the beginnings of the international tribunal and the resurrection of the national stream of justice. These processes must be seen to have started by Rwandans and the refugees for the wounds to start to

"In 1995 I hope we see

## The point of contention the Golan Heights

By Mariam M. Shahin Special to the Jordan Times

QUNEITRA - The liberated capital of the Golan province - Syria's 14th, lies a five-minute drive away from the famous shouting hill, where every Friday, Syrians from the Golan gather to look across a green valley and literally "shout" to their relatives in the Israeli occupied zones and share the news of their

daily lives. Battery driven loudspeakers and picnic baskets have been part of the lives of Golan's inhabitants since the 1967 war. Families have been separated for the last 27 years. One such family is that of Imad Abu Hamad, who heads for the shouting hill every Friday. A native of Majdal Shams, one of five Golan villages under Israeli occupation, Mr. Abu Hamad comes to speak to his family over the louds-peaker. This Friday he has brought his fiancee, Reema, to introduce her via-loudspeaker to his parents, Mr. Ahu Hamad, 23, is one of only eight young men from the Golan who were allowed to study in Svria some five years ago. He is studying to become a dentist at the University of Damascus and return to

Majdal Shams. Mr. Abu Hamad says that he and the 20,000 Druze living under Israeli occupation in the Golan are prisoners inside the Golan."

"We have a special Golan identification card, we are not Israeli nationals and thus cannot move around freely outside the

confines of the Golan," he says. "We have no rights and any well we want to drill, any room we want to build, we need permission from the Israeli occupation anthorities; we live under

Mr. Ahu Hamad says that as an Arab from the occupied Golan, he and "all others" want the Golan to be returned to Syria - "because we are part of Syria — not part of Israel."

Mr. Abu Hamad and his fiance return from the shouting hill to Quneitra, where 60,000 people now live in that hiberated part of the Golan - the new city of Quneitra. Adjacent to the older and largely destroyed city that was captured by the Israelis in 1967 and liberated by the Syrian army in 1973, the old Quneitra has been preserved in almost the same way as the withdrawing Israeli army left it - des-

The town hospital, which once served a population of 53,000, was used as a target practice by the Israelis during the six-year occupation of the city.

Every house, store, mos-que and church was numbered in pale blue English numbers during the occupa-tion. After liberation the Syrians found that most of the town's houses and building had been blown up by the retreating army. The Syrians painted references to the buildings' former usage for visitors and tourists "the barber," "the de-

ntist" and "the restaurant." The Syrian government sees the destruction of old Quneitra along with the

Arab villages in the occupied Golan by the Israelis as a weary sign of Israeli' intentions. "Such a destructive spirit is void of intentions of peaceful existence in this part of the world," says the government appointed guide to the Golan.

During the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, most of the Golan was occupied by the Israelis. U.N. Resolution 242 specifically requires Israel to withdraw from

The Golan Heights are a series of mountainous areas some 1,860 square kilometres in size. Of these Israel still occupies less than 1,250 square kilometres, having forcibly made a partial withdrawal in 1973.

The Golan Heights are Syria's 14th province, home to minority groups such as the Druze, some Christians as well as Circassian Sunnis. In all, Israeli occupation of the Heights displaced some 150,000 indigenous people in 1967. Today they and their desacendants number 400.000.

The Syrians that remained on the Golan were mostly Druze mountain villagers. The villages in question are five — they are Majdal Shams, Ain Kinia, Masada, Rajar and Buqata. Some 20,000 live in these five occupied villages of the

Since 1967, Israel has built 40 settlements in the Golan and some 16,000 mostly economie, rather than religious, settlers, have made the rich Syrian mountain range their home. Israelis -say- that"Israel's best wine comes

from the Golan." One fifth of the Golan according to Syrian government officials, the Golan is dubbed "the Kuwait of Syria" for its economic potential which include 172

resh springs.

"They, the Israelis, willnever be able to keep it,"
explains Syrian political analyst, and sometime confidant of the country's decision makers Mohammad Aziz Shukri, Dean of the Law School at the University of Damascus.

Mr. Shukri dismisses Israel security claims which-argue the Golan is a necessary "security valve" to safeguard Israeli borders. "Our capital is only 35 miles away from the Israeh missiles — security is a state of mind — if anyone is in

of mind — it anyone is in danger, it is us."

Serving as a central trade route between Asia, India and Europe, Syria has al-ways played a central political as well as economic role in the Middle East since long before the Cru-

Syrian politicians dismiss talk of "Syria being left out" if a peace with Israel is not concluded soon. "My civilisation goes back to 3,000 B.C., says Mr. Shukri. "We cannot be left out of any peace deal, we will leave others out." Mr.

Shukri says. Father Fayez Freijar — a country priest from the southern Syrian province of the Houran, echoes his compatriot: We are the oldest Arabs - we were here even before the begia-



## Palestinian authority to freeze new bank licences | New Saudi fees

GAZA (R) — The newly appointed head of the Palestinian Monetary Authority said he had proposed halting the licensing of banks to operate in Palestinian selfrule areas until he could

monitor them properly.

Found Bisesso, appointed last week, said at a news conference Monday that a Bank of England specialist would arrive in Gaza soon to help set up a bank monitoring unit, sponsored by the International Monetary Pond

Self-rule areas, deprived of banking services under Israeli occupation, have seen an explosion of activity under self-

Three banks have opened branches in the Gaza Strip and the self-rule enclave of Jericho in the last four months, joining the Bank of Palestine which already operated there.

Managers of the Egyptianowned Arah Land Bank, the Jordanian-owned Arab Bank and the mainly Jordanian Cairo-Amman Bank say they have attracted over 10,000 Gazans to open hank accounts in recent months, many of them for the first

"I have proposed to stop issuing new licences for banks until we can set up a structure to monitor them properly," Mr. Biseiso said. "I expect this period to last a few

Authority nfficials said PLO leader Yasser Arafat, to whom Mr. Biseiso reports personally, was likely to approve his proposal.

Mr. Bisciso said that apart from those banks now operating, he recognised licences for the commercial Bank of Palestine, the investment bank heing formed hy

Palestinian investors, and some Jordanian banks. But the applications of

many other banks for licences in self-rule areas needed more clarification. "In particular, I'm saying any new bank will need to run n feasibility study and define its capital so we can be sure itwill work on a sound com-mercial hasis," said Mr.

The new Palestinian Monetary Anthority will report directly to Mr. Arafat, he said, and be independent from the self-rule authority's finance department and all

Mr. Biseiso, who has drafted guidelines for a Palestinian monetary policy, said he would set up a bank's bank" as quickly as

possible which would assume some of the functions of a central hank. Israel rejects the idea of a Palestinian central bank because it would be a symbal of national

sovereignty: But Mr. Biseiso said this bank would take deposits from other banks, build up foreign exchange reserves and act as the Palestinian authority's banker. He did

Even before it was set up, the authority would monitor reserve and liquidity ratios of banks in Palestinian areas to ensure they conformed to hank for international settlements standards. It would also watch interest and exchange rates.

Mr. Biseiso said his draft rogramme was worked out close cooperation with the IMF but he could not confirm. rumours among bankers in Gaza that the fund was thinking of setting up an office in the self-rule areas.

# Iraqi dinar

The dollar was trading at 665 dinars on the illegal blackmarket, where it fetched 540 two weeks ago. Anthorised dealers, working under central bank rules, still

sanctions imposed because of its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Traders said the current rise in prices took place when it became apparent that Iraq's diplomatic moves and

traders said foreign money changers had gone under-ground and a blackmarket was sprouting again in Bagh-

Prices of essential foods also soared. A box of 30 eggs jumped from 1350 dinars to 1650, about the average monthly salary of a junior government clerk in Iraq.

900 from 700 and cooking oil from 750 to 950. In the past the government

ly and demand or punitive But traders said most food

push prices higher.

Last year the government forced farmers to sell at state-

controlled prices. It granted members of the ruling Beath Party sweeping powers to force the rates.

But it soon backed down when most farmers refused to ship their produce to local

By Glasbergen

# tumbles,

prices of essential commod-

offered 550.

peace overtures to Kuwait and other foes were still not

embargo by mid-January but

no change is expected.

Illegal trading in hard currency is punishable by law and offenders risk having a hand or foot amputated. But

A kilogramme of sugar surged to 525 dinars from 400, a kilogramme of meat to

intervened, resurting to either market forces of supp-

## Syria adopts new measure to unify exchange rates

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has issued a decree amending the calculation of the exchange rate of the Syrian pound against hard currencies in several government dealings as part of efforts to

unify the three existing rates. An economy ministry official told Reuters the new rate, covering several fees and taxes collected by the finance and econnmy ministries and some allowances, is 43 pounds instead nf 23 pounds against one U.S. dol-lar effective from Jan. 1.

change rates used for some hotel bills and some customs duties, expected to follow, would mean more than 90 per cent of local dealings would be covered by one exchange rate of 42-43 (buying-selling) pounds to a dollar.

He did not say when the two old rates would be abolished but economic sources expect this to happen in the

next few months. He said the volume of taxes and fees covered and allowances of Syrian diplomats and employees working abroad would not be affected

ly aimed at adjusting figures to be contained in the government's general budget.

He said the decree included a special article doubling the allowances of government officials working abroad so they wanld nat lase money as a result of the

The existing exchange rates are: - An official rate of 11.2 Syrian pounds to a dollar. This is used to calculate hotel bilis (nnly accommodation for foreigners services pro-

vided by hotels are calculated at 42 pounds) and for a very limited number of government dealings. - A customs rate of 23

pounds to a dollar. This is used to calculate customs duties on a large number of goods. An official rate of 11. is used to calculate duties on a few basic commodities, and a rate of 42 is imposed on luxury 200ds.

A rate of 42 pounds to a dollar or neighbouring countries rate (fixed in line with the pound's rate at neigh-bouring markets) used in all private-sector dealings and most government financial operations. Prime Minister Mahmond

Zn'bi told parliament in November his government planned to continue efforts to unify exchange rates "gradually and in a studied way." He gave no timetable.

The Syrian pound on the black market has been stable at 48-50 pounds to a dollar for more than five years. Economic sources said this was a good indicator for the government in adopting a unified rate.

### He said removal of ex-Iranian riyal falls to record low against dollar

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian riyal has sunk to new lows against foreign currencies as the government has tightened the supply of hard cash tn the market, dealers said Tues-

They said the dollar rose above the 3,000 riyal level for the first time during the Christmas and New Year period, when volumes were low because of holidays in the

Landon-hased Iranian money dealer Ali Pakpour said the dollar traded at 3,020 riyals Tuesday, 10 riyals up on Monday. A pound traded at 4,720 riyals and a mark

1.950 riyals. "Supply is short. Some (state-affiliated) foundations and enmpanies through which dollars used to be channelled to the market have dried up," Mr. Pakpour

The government, under criticism for allowing \$19 billion in fareign debt to build np, is trying to curb imports and save on hard cash revenue, expected this year to be at best flat because of the weak price of crude oil -

Iran's main export. Central bank governor Mohsen Nourbakhsh said in November Iran would probahly earn \$14 billion from oil exports in the Iranian year to March 20, about the same as

In October the central bank cracked down on illegal money changing, arresting dozens of dealers, and limited exchange houses main-ly to selling \$1,000 to each passenger travelling abroad at a controlled rate of around 2,700 rivals per dollar.

This has led to a gap of about 10 per cent between the rates in the open market and legal exchange houses raising the number of major exchange rates to four.

The official floating rate set daily by the central bank, applied to major import ms, has been kept at 1,748/ 50 riyals per dollar for more than a year.

Another rate set by the bank for lower priority imports has been set at 2,340/45 riyals per dollar since An-

## Turkish lira comes under inflationary pressure

ANKARA (R) — The Turkish lira, which lost 61 per cent, of its value against the dollar last year, has come under renewed pressure from relentless inflation, economists said Tuesday.

They say the government, seeking to keep the value of the currency at realistic levels, should let the lira depreciate faster to adjust igher-than-expected inflation rates in the past three months.

"Real exchange rates are npproaching the levels of January 1994 when the economic crisis erupted," Faruk Selcuk, an associate professor of economics at Bilkent University, said.

"According to the government. June was the time when the exchange rates were running at levels they had to be. At the end of 1994. the lira was overvalued by some 10 per cent as compared to its value in June," Dr. Seicuk told Reuters.

Prime Minister Tansu Cil-



Tansu Ciller

ler said last week that inflation in the second half of 1994 would be 33.1 per cent. This will carry the year-on-year wholesale price inflating to

146.5 per cent. The government aims to lower inflation to 22.5 percent by the end of 1995 but bankers expect inflation to stand at over 65 per cent.

The central bank said Monday it would maintain its policy of keeping deprecia-

tion on par with inflation. This policy, said to be in practice since April 5 when the government launched a programme in beat the crisis. shauld have pushed the mnathly average to 41,600 lira in December. The actual

December rate was 37,543

The over-valuation of the lira has galvanised expectations for faster lira depreciation in early 1995.

The central bank has raised money rates to curh the slide of the lira which gained momentum in the past week, but some bankers warn of adverse effects of high rates on the economy, likely to contract by over four per cent

in 1994. The central bank should allow faster depreciation within certain limits instead of raising interest rates. The rise will weaken speculative demand for hard currencies and enable the treasury to borrow," Roy Gevrek, deputy general manager of private

Iktisat Bank, said. He expected the dollar to hit 41,250 lira hy end-

January. The lira, also weakened by uncertainties over the monetary targets for this year, opened at 40,650 lira TuesBankers say the central

bank was likely to intervene to defend the slipping lira. . "We have entered a tough period," said Ugar Civelek, head of Istanbul-based Uki Investment. "The central bank is now trying to keep the lira through high rates. But this policy, if maintained, will kill the treasury's ability for domestic borrowing and cause a more serious disas-

Mr. Civelek's forecast for end-January dollar rate is over \$42,000 lira.

The central bank is expected to unveil its fareign exchange rate targets after talks with the International Monetary Fund in the second half of this month.

Despite signs of an accel-cration is self-offs, economists still carry concerns for the recessed economy, citing 1995 foreign debt servicing of around \$12 billion and high domestic debt repayments in the first quarter.

THE BETTER HALF,

GLASBERGEN

## prices soar

BAGHDAD (R) - The Iraci dinar nosedived against the U.S. dollar Tuesday, leading to further hikes in

Iraq is under U.N. trade

enough to have the sanctions eased or lifted. The U.N. Security Council is scheduled to review the

stuffs were in short supply and any crackdown would

# not set a date for when it would start functioning. Could raise \$4b

sures to raise revenue imposed by the Saudi government are expected to net it at least \$2.5 billion and possibly over \$4 billion, economists and diplomats said Tuesday.

They made these calcula-tions after studying the new year's budget which cuts spending by 10 billion riyals (\$2.7 billion) to 150 billion (\$40 billion) and raises income by 15 billion (\$4 billion)

to 135 billion (\$36 billion). The new fees mark a novel approach — albeit one called fur by the International Monetary Fund -- for a government which has until now relied almost exclusively on higher prices or exports of oil to boost its income.

The've done exactly what people say they ought to have done," one diplomat com-mented.

Precise calculations of the fees' effect were impossible at this stage, but the analysts estimated they would raise at least 10 billion riyals (\$2.7 billion) and conceivably close to the entire 15 billion (\$4 billion) in planned new re-

This meant that any increase in oil revenues above what is forecast could go mainly towards crasing the deficit altogether, paying off. government arrears to its domestic creditors or possibly meeting off-budget costs.

As of now, the government appeared to be planning for oil revenue steady only slightly higher than last year's proections, but this may well be an underestimate, they said.

"I think they've made a conservative estimate, and they may well do considerably better," another diplomat said.

weighted average price for Saudi crude of \$15 a barrel instead of \$14.50 last year. In either case, it is less than the current weighted average for Saudi crude exports of about \$15.20 a barrel, so just

boost. Even if last year's deficit is not eliminated, it is due to be reduced through the new fees, which will also discourage consumption that requires major investment in new electricity, desalination

maintaining current prices would give an unbudgeted

or oil refining plants.
"They are doing it gradually, but at least they are doing it. They should be applauded for being on the right track," said Henry Azzam, chief economic at Network at Network. nomist at National Commer-

cial Bank. Jeddah-based Azzam noted that the ratio of deficit to gross domestic product was now budgeted to be only about 3.3 per cent, comparing favourably with Western

Most of the new income would appear to be generated from fees to be charged on refined oil products. Based on 1994 consumption, the fees — nearly doubling petrol charges and tripling diesel would raise about three billion riyals extra from petrol (\$800 million) and five or six billion (around \$1.5 billion)

sel and kerosene. Riyadh is also considering charging electricity firms for the fuel which they now get free. Higher electricity prices announced Sunday would compensate them, and the economists said this could raise billions of riyals for the government.

#### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 1995 By Thomas S. Plerson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The triple Moon square to Venus, Mercury and Jupiter, combined with the opposition of Mars makes this n day and evening when individuals share an inability to express motions and affections towards one another.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Morning is the best time to handle monetary affairs. Get caught up on routine activities. The evening

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Get personal affairs handled well in the morning. Know what your goals are, then go towards gaining them with profitable activities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Moraing is the best time to get practical matters improved. Be social with all your friends in the ing. Increase your popularity. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get busy at whatever you have promised others in the morning. Be with your most devoted

iter in the evening. LEO: (July 22 to Angust 21) Handle those civic affairs you have neglected in the morning. Be loyal to a bigwig in the morning and you well get a lot of appreciation.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to please one who has power over you, waether in business or personal life in the evening and you will be very successful.

LIBEA: (September 23 to October 22) Attend to business affairs well in the morning. Later, you can enter into new activities which are more interesting and profitable. SCORPEO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to keep promises to a partner, even if it takes a while. After a busy day, enjoy the company of your mate or loved ones.

SAGETTARTUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy at tasks in the morning, but after bunch you can accomplish much in the outside world. Attend a nice party in the evening. CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Get busy perfecting n special skill in the morning. Relax and rest up in the evening for a

AQUABIOS: (January 21 to February 19) Get busy improving home conditions in the morning. Later, be with good friends at the entertainment of your choice. FISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can communicate very well in the morning, but later the focus should be on home an loved ones. Show appreciation for your friends.

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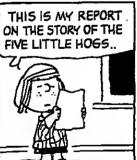
Birthstone of January: Garnet — Rose Quartz

THE Daily Crossword by Mether Kennworthy

very busy day tomorrow.

### Peanuts



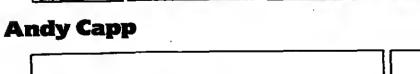






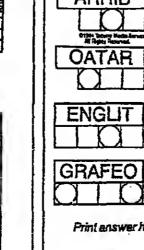


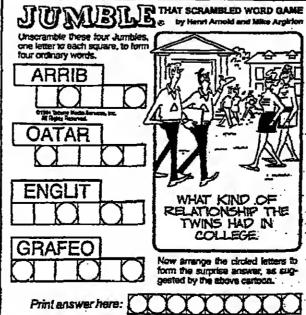




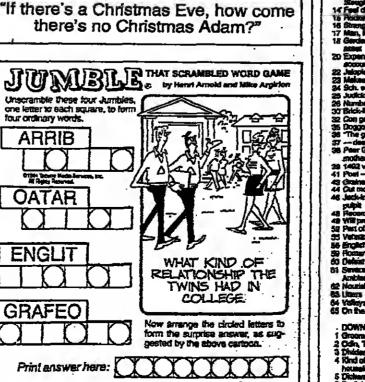


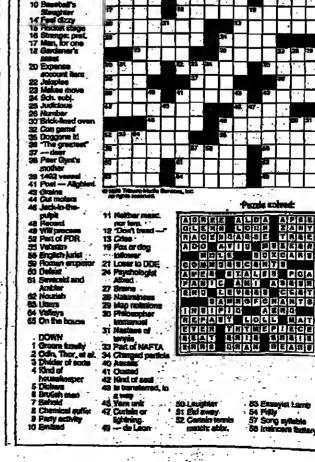
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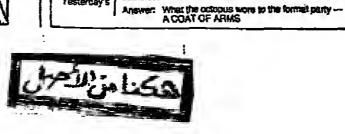


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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

### **Used clothes** account for 7 per cent of clothing imports

\*\* The president of the

association of textile merchants commented on a study by the Jordan Export De-velopment and Trade Cenres Corporation saying that 90 per cent of those who depend on the used clothes' market are people who earn less than JD 150 a month. raculous train The remaining 10 per cent, he added, are people whose income does not permit them income does not person as to buy specific wear, such as heavy winter clothes. Noting that used clothes are also in demand by the people of neighbouring countries, the president of the association said imports of used clothes represent about seven per cent of total imports of garments. He pointed out that the number of stores dealing with used clothes was between 2,500 to 3,000 all over the country and that these stores employ about 10,000 workers.

> \*\*The government decided to build a new road between Amman and Madaba at a cost that may reach JD 8 million. The first step to-wards the project will be taken in the coming few days after having prepared, the lender documents for the road. It is expected that the 4-lane, 12-kilometre-long road will be ready after a maximum of a two-year period (Al Ra'i).

\* The Ministry of Post and Communications has expanded its fleet of cars from the beginning of this year to speed up delivery of mail between various cities and villages in the Kingdom (Al

☆☆ Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi is the new general manager of \_ - the Jordan Petroleum Refin-. r cry Co. Ltd. The services of the former general manager, Saad Al Tal, ended as of Jan. 1. 1995 (Al Ra'i).

☆☆The Arab Land Bank is " to increase its capital to JD 10 - million. The bank's capital in 1990 was JD 7 million; it was raised four times since the end of 1992 (Al Dustour).

\*\* About 4.500 people will benefit from the new rules allowing cars with temporary entry plates to be customscleared. The new rules permit the clearing of cars on temporary entry basis even though they are more than five-years old. Another obstacle that was removed was giving the owners of Liese cars financial facilities for working out their dues of we trapped customs they had to pay (Al atu dolphia

\*\* The Industrial Development is working on raising its capital to ID 12 million in the coming few months. The bank extended 147 loans, amounting to JD 29.7 mil-ion, in 1994 (Al Dustour).

\*\* The Central Bank reduced the interest rate on its loans and advances to the Agricultural Credit Corporation and Small Scale Industries and Handicraft Fund to 6.5 per cent. Interest rate on loans and advances given to encourage exports and finance housing were reduced to 7.5 per cent.

\*\*The agricultural credit of JD 1.8 million under a project to give loans to rural families. The project which was set up in 1994, benefitted 835 rural families. Loans averaged JD 1,500 per family and were mostly in the field of animal wealth. Seventeen per cent of the loans were extended in central Ghor area, followed by South Mouneh and Wadi Al Yabes. employed extended JD 1 million in credits to 362 borrowers, translating into an aver-age of ID 2,762 per loan (Al

## TCC plans to float \$50 million in Eurobonds

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - The Telecommnnications Corporation (TCC) is negotiating with potential managers the floatation of bonds worth \$50 million in the first such Jordaman venture into the European capital market since

The proposed issue is widely seen as a litmus test for Jordan's hopes to attract foreign capital to local investments in the wake of the emerging new opportunities after the Kingdom and Israel signed a historic peace treaty in October.

The peace treaty, which ended a 46-year state of war, is also seen as having largely eliminated the state of instability and uncertainty that prompted many international investors from channelling capital to the Kingdom.

sion on granting the mandate for managing the issue was expected soon.

Mr. Jamil dismissed reports that the TCC had already concluded a deal with ANZ Grindlays to manage the issue. "We are continuing the negotiations with the (potential) managers of the issue and a final decision is ex-pected soon," he told the Jordan Times.

Nine banks were reported to have submitted bids for managing the issue and five of them are shortlisted. According to banking sources, ANZ Grindlays is one of the main contenders among the shortlisted five.

The Amman regional office of ANZ Grindlays referred all queries to the bank's London offices, which bank officials said was direct-

ly in charge of the affair. The World Bank will guarantee the principal and the TCC, through the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will guarantee the yield on the bonds.

pean Union, is granting \$50 tion are also under discussions. However, the yield on

them to be attractive to inestors, analysts noted. However, the World Bank guarantee for the bonds is expected to reduce the rate of yield since such an undertaking by the world body automatically reduces the risk for

investors.

The proceeds of the issue of the seven-year bonds will be used to finance TCC expansion projects expected to be implemented in three years starting early 1995, Mr. Jamil said. The projects are

estimated to cost around \$200 The Enropean Investment

COMPANY'S NAME

**BUSINESS BANK** 

JORDAN MATIONAL BANK JORDAN MATIONAL BANK / NEW MIDDLE BAST INVESTMENT BANK.

PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK

SANKS SECTOR

JORDAN KUWAIT BANK JORDAN GULF BANK JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT

JORDAN FRENCE INSURANCE ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE ARAB UNION INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE

INSURANCE SECTOR

JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALRA'I

SERVICES SECTOR

THE JORDAN WORSTED HILLS ARAB PEARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING

DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY

LIVESTOCK & POULTRY
ARAE PAPER CONVERTING E TRADING
INTERNEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDOSTRIES

THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES THE ARAB POTASH/NEW

JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINARY

JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES JORDAN ROCKWOOL INDUSTRIES

UNIVERSAL HODERN INDUSTRIES

JORDAN INDOSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO

RDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO

MATIONAL CABLE & HIME HANDFACTURING JORDAN SULPEO-CHEMICALS ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS

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ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS

MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT

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ARAB BANK

million as a loan to finance the bonds has to be better the projects, the Eximbank of Japan \$23 million and the than those offered by other World Bank is providing \$20 fund-raisers in the market for million. The rest of the needed funds would be provided by the TCC itself.

The projects involve basic services and expansion both vertically and borizontally," Mr. Jamil said.

The TCC, which holds a monopoly for basic phone services in the Kingdom, is expected to launch moves towards gradual privatisation in mid-1995. The scope of priva-tisation and how far the government is willing to let go of one of the major incomeearners of the Treasury remain unclear.

The TCC made an oper-

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ational profit of around JD 100 million in 1993 and is expected to have raised it by about 20 per cent in 1994. Economie analysts noted that the very fact that nine

hanks were interested in managing the TCC bond issue reflected the emerging international interest in Jordan and expectations that the offer would meet excellent response in the European capital market.

Wbile interest in internationally -guaranteed bonds cannot seen as reflecting interest in direct investments, hankers say that the TCC bond issue should serve as opening the door for Jordan to sound out the international capital market at a time when the global race for capital is fierce.

PREV. CLOSING CLOSING PRICE

181.500 183.350 4.110 4.150 3.840 3.930

INDEX NUMBER: 157.58

INDEX NUMBER: 138.15 CHANGE : -0.052

INDEX NUMBER: 132.19

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1.560

1.560 1.520 2.650 4.850 2.420 1.370 1.230 12.800 3.440

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MARKET

1.590 2.980 1.590 3.710

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PRICE

03/01/1995

VALUE TRADED JD

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## Jordan phosphate exports rise 7%

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's added Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), a major world protection ducer, saw rock phosphates exports rise seven per cent in 1994 to 3,824,900 tonnes, its managing director said Tues-

day.
"More marketing efforts were made in 1994 to rehabilitate our position in our traditional markets, which also saw an increase in exports to Australia, a growing potential market." Sameh Madani told Reuters.

Exports in 1993 were 3,564,960 tonnes. The Kingdom, world's second largest exponer, has a seven million tonnes production capacity but consumes about one million tonnes for fertiliser production.

Exports were partly boosted by buoyant demand from India, Jordan's main market, with sales rising to 1,008,000 tonnes in 1994 from 835,000 tonnes in 1993. Australia's falling phosphates reserves bave prompted it to seek new suppliers and JPMC concluded a

300.000-tonne deal in 1994. Jordan's exports of diammonium phospbate rose 46.5 per cent in 1994 to 700,620 tonnes from 477,817 tonnes in 1993, Mr. Madani

A \$32 million revamping of the company's major Aqaba fertiliser complex, boosting capacity to 750,000 tonnes of diammonium phosphate from 600,000 tonnes, was partly

responsible. Jordan also exported 10,050 tonnes of aluminium fluoride in 1994 against 10,303 tonnes last year, Mr. Madani added.

Over one million tonnes of phosphate rock was processed as fertiliser last year m the company's main Aqaba

The Kingdom has seen production of raw phosphates drop to 4.1 million tonnes in 1994 from 4.3 million tonnes in 1993 due to lower demand, officials said.

JPMC officials said the company drew on a large stockpile of phophate rock accumulated after the collapse of traditional markets in eastern Europe, reducing operating costs.

Higher phospbates prices with increased world demand and the drawing on reserves are expected to reverse JPMC's 20 million dinar (\$28.5 million) loss in 1993. JPMC had a two million dinar (\$2.8 million) half year net profit, officials said.

## Jewellery business booms in Russia

MOSCOW (AFP) - As an Western style by a French investment or as presents, gemstones are catching the eye of the rieb and the less well off in Russia, and jewellery shops are all over Mos-

"Sapphires and emeralds are selling like hot cakes," said a delighted Galya Kanunnikova, who runs one of the new jewellery outlets in the Gum department store on Red Square.

She has rings, bracelets-and other Western-made ornaments on offer from \$200 to \$10,000 a piece.

It used to he only very rich Russians who patronised the city's luxurious jewel shops, where the doors were always kept closed as a precaution, but now withe trade bas hecome more demotic. "Small rings at \$300 are

selling very well." Ms. Kanunnikova said as she moved from a fur-clad woman to a man in an overcoat who simply wanted "something" for about one million roubles (\$285).

sbows in the shop's modern

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architect who also designed the fittings and had them made in Italy.

"On average, customers spend \$600 to \$700, some as an investment, some to huy presents," she said.

Such profitable trade is also extremely risky because of the attentions of organised crime, jewellers know. Generally speaking, the official owner who gives you a husiness card is not the real proprietor.

The latter often has several shops, but is never there for official receptions and his or her name appears on no document.

A truck factory in the Urals, sbort of cash, pays its workers their monthly wages in gold rings, necklaces or earrings. It used to be a leading manufacturer of trucks and spare plants for the army's tanks, but became unable to pay proper wages for six months.

"We had to do something. we couldn't pay them in lor-Business is good and it ries," said a member of man-

## Afram Jamil, deputy general manager of the state-owned TCC, said a final deci-Jordan Times Financial Markets Cairo Amman Bank U.S. Dollar in lat HongKong

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Switte Franc	3.75	4.86	4.25	4.56
French Franc	5.68	4,06	6.50	6.93
Japanese Yen	2.12	2.18	2.25	2.45
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Saudi Riyel	0.1862	0.1885			
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gyptian Found	0.2000	0.2160			
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AE Dirimes	0.1699	1991.0			
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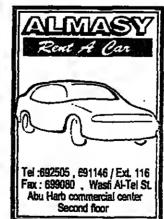
### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

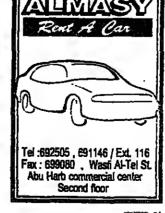
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

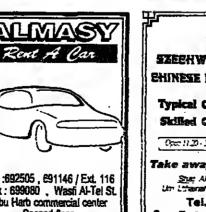
Canadian dollar U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.3972/82 Deutschemarks 1.5590/00 1.7446/56 Dutch guilders 1.3170/80 Swiss francs 32,02/06 Belgian francs French francs 5.3715/65 Italian lire 1622.8/3.8 100.22/32 Japanese yen Swedish crowns 7.4525/25 6.7950/00 Norwegian crowns 6.1155/05 Danish crowns 5th Circle 674563 - 674551 One sterling \$1.5607/17













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## 10 Sports

## Becker: Sampras under threat in Open

PERTH (R) — Boris Becker predicted Tuesday that Pete Sampras' position as world number one would come under serious threat in 1995 starting at this month's Australian Open.

The three-times Wimhledon champion has flown into Australia early to represent Germany at the Hopman Cup team tournament, clearly still buoyed by his return to form in the second half of last

American Sampras has beld the top spot virtually uninterrupted since April 1993, but Becker believes he and Andre Agassi are well-placed to challenge for the title if they start the year

"In the second half of the year he got injured and couldn't really play, while Andre and myself picked up our game. It was more exciing for everyone," said the world number three.

"The key is to play consistent and good tennis over 12 months. Andre and myself played good for six to seven months, but in order to challenge people we have to do what we did in the second half of 1994 for the whole

Becker missed last year's Australian Open because of the birth of his son Noah, hut has now arrived in better condition for the Melbourne fortnight than at any time since his only title there in

"I wasn't in the best shape in 1992 or 1993, but now even though I've taken more time off from tennis, I've been training and I'm feeling very good. Hopefully I can win a few rounds.

Now 27, Becker credits coach Nick Bollettieri with giving him "new inspiration" and has called a temporary ceasefire with Australian Open organisers over the proposal to cut the time between points from 25 to 20 seconds.

At the Sydney Indoor in October, Becker claimed the change would put the players' health at risk in high temperatures and even threatened to withdraw in protest.

Compromise has since been reached and Becker also played a dead bat to inquiries about his future Davis Cup intentions, cur-

above his right eyehrow.

minister

Pele sworn in as sports

BRASILIA (R) - Former Brazilian soccer

Dreekman shocks Ferreira

Ferreira in the first upset of the Australian

hardcourt championships Tuesday. The 19-

rently the subject of fevered speculation in Germany.

"Everyone has been talking except me," he said. There is no further news." A decision has also been delayed on Goran Ivanisevic's fitness for the Anstralian Open.

The Croat has made good progress since injuring his right knee in an exhibition match on New Year's Day but is still going for pre-cantionary X-rays Wednes-

#### Courier wants no burnout repeat

Former world number one Jim Courier said Tuesday he was determined to avoid the burn-out which disrupted his career last year.

The American world number 13 started his prepara-tions for this month's Australian Open with a 7-6, 6-1 victory over experienced Swiss qualifier Jakob Hlasek in the first round of the Australian men's hardcourt

championships.

Courier briefly quite the Tonr last August after a shock second round defeat by Spain's Alex Corretja in Indianapolis, but returned later in the month to play in the U.S. Open.

He said at the time be needed the break to renew his enthusiasm for the game and hoped he would learn from the experience.

"I experienced a bit of hurn-out during the last (northern hemisphere) summer and I always want to be happy to play. I want to keep that feeling going all year, Courier said.

The former Australian Open champion said Hlasek had provided stern opposi-tion in his warm-up for this year's opening grand slam event at Flinders Park, starting on January 16. 'It was a tough first round

draw here, particularly to play a qualifier who is as experienced as Hlasek,' Courier said. "It was a tough match for

me because he had three matches under the belt to get used to the balls and the

Hingis aware of burnout Swiss teenage prodigy Martina



#### **Boris Becker**

Hingis Tuesday said a common-sense approach would prevent her repeating Jennifer Capriati's experience as a tennis burn-out.

'If you show common sense in how many tournaments you play, you should be all right," the 14-year-old told reporters. "It would be silly to play 35 events in 35 weeks.

"I'm not going to do that so there is no danger of burnout," she added. Speaking on her arrival in Sydney for the qualifying rounds for next week's New

South Wales Open, Hingis

said her light schedule to date marked an early difference to the American's ill-fated

"I think it is a little different for me because I haven't played in a lot of tournaments," Hingis told reporters through an interpreter.

Hingis, accompanied hy her mother, Melanie, who doubles as her mentor and training partner, is ranked 87 in the world after playing a handful of adult events. She turned professional last September, only days after her 14th birthday. If Hingis qualifies this

weekend, she will join Capriati, now on the comeback trail at the age of 18, in the main draw at White City.

Capriati exploded into pro-fessional ranks in 1990, aged 13. after enjoying considerable success, her form slumped in 1993, prompting her to quit the tour for 13

Hingis, the former junior Wimbledon and junior French Open champion, is convinced that careful man-agement of her schedule will help her avoid problems others have faced.

#### the notional value of their playing staff in the figure," said Le Graet. "There is one club, Marseille, which does

PARIS (AFP) — Olympique Marseille have once more hit the self-destruct button, and this time the threat of extinction for France's most famous football club looks more real than ever.

More famous these days for fancy accounting than fancy football, the club were forced to drop into the second division because of financial irregularities at the end of last season.

History could repeat itself.

- with dire consequences for the club - at the end of this

Last mouth the club and its president, Bernard Taple, parted company and Pierre Cangioni, the new president, was promptly summoned to the league headquarters

He was given until next month to come up with a rescue package for the chuh by league president Noel Le Graet, who said he wants to avoid a winding up order at

"At the end of January we will have another meeting," he said. "And in February Pierre Cangioni will give us his rescue plan." Under Tapie, the former

Socialist government minis-ter, the cluh's opaque accounting frustrated the league's financial watchdogs. Le Graet was appointed in 1991 to clean up French football and balance the league's

"There are 41 (professional) clubs in France out of 42

Germany's

backstroke

HONG KONG (R) — Sandra Volker, who almost gave up competitive swimming after a disastrous Bar-

celona Olympics, set a world record of 27.86

seconds in the 50 metres

backstroke at a world cup

short-course meeting on

The 20-year-old German

best the old mark of 27.93, set, by American Angel Marino in December 1993.

That record, set at

Sahadell, Spain, was

smashed twice last year by

Bai Xiuya of China but her

time of 27.62 seconds was erased from the record

books after she tested posi-

tive for ephedrine and was

I finished 16th (eighth in the B final) I wanted to

give up swimming. But my coach (Dirk Langer) asked

me if I wanted to train in a

different way and I accepted," said Volker.

The individually-tailored

training regime paid hand-

some dividends on Tuesday

when she smashed the old

record with a tremendous

chance as I was feeling

good and had been training

"I knew that I had a

"After Barcelona, when

banned for a month.

Volker

record

sets

Tuesday.

meet with our criteria. For example they don't include not meet these criteria."

He added: "I am not going to give you figures, but I can tell you the differences between our version of Olympi-que Marseille's finances and Pierre Cangioni's version are significant.

Le Graet promised that by 1995 deht-ridden French football would be in the black.

At the league's annual meeting at the end of January he is expected to announce that the 20 first division clubs have slashed their collective deficit by 500 million fancs in four years to 120 million by the end of last season. Half the deficit was lowed by

Marseille alone.

Before his departure last month, under pressure following the collapse of his own husiness empire. Tapie painted a rosy picture of Marseille's financial health. But Le Graet says the club

is in "dire straights."
Unless they balance their books, they face another and. this time potentially fatal enforced relegation at the end

"For now we can meet our running costs," said Can-gioni. "So we have a breathing space before the next meeting with Le Graet." But unless Cangioni comes

Marseille in trouble ... again the players, fighting for promotion back to the first division - which they should achieve - could then find themselves automatically relegated back to the second.

The recent musical chairs of coaches has not helped. Marc Bourier and his successor Gerard Gili were sacked. within days of each other before Christmas and former, youth team coach Henry stambouli started Monday as the side's third coach in a

But if they fail to gain promotion, they could slide into the abyss of semisional soccer in the hird division.

Their sojourn this season in the second division has hurt a club with a European pedigree and a budget and payroll to match.

Marseille had already suf-in fered in the 1993-94 season when they were prevented from defending their European Cup as a result of the

Valenciennes bribes scandal. Tapie and five other defendents will appear in court in -March concerning the alleged attempt to fix the match against valenciennes six days before their May 26, 1993 Enropean Cup triumph against AC Milan.
The European ban, which

also kept the club out of the European Super Cup and the International Cap, cost the francs, said Tapie.



One of the cars participating in this year's Paris-Dakar raily being inspected by technicisms in Granada, Spain prior to the ferry trip to Morocco (AFP, photo)

## **Brother-sister duo**

**SPORTS IN BRIEF** 

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil striker ZURICH (R) — Japan, South Korea and Romanio suffered a cut above the eye when be Mexico lodged bids to stage the 2002 World was but by a flying beer can during a New Year Cup finals before the December 31 deadline, party in Rio. But he said on television FIFA announced Tuesday. The three coun-Monday that he would be fit to play for tries must confirm their candidatures before Spanish cinh Barcelona after the Christmas February 28 after examining the world govbreak. Romario, who was fined earlier this erning body's official list of requirements, year by Barcelona for returning late from a FIFA added. FIFA is to decide on the venue holiday in Brazil, was interviewed at Rio of the first World Cup of the next millenium airport shortly before returning to Spain. He in June 1996 but leading officials have long appeared with a small plaster over the cut suggested it should go to Asia for the first time. Mexico has already staged the finals twice - in 1970 and again in 1986 after stepping in as late replacement when Col-ombia decided it could not host the event.

#### Romario Sportsman of the Year

PARIS (R) — Brazil striker Romario was named Sportsman of the Year by French daily l'Equipe Monday. Romario, who played an influential role in Brazil's World Cup triumph star Pele was sworn in Tuesday as his country's new sports minister. "As a minister I am surrounded by stars ... and our coach has been approved by all of Brazil," he said, referring to new president Fernando Henrilast July, received 235 points in a vote by que Cardoso, who took office on Sunday. L'Equipe journalists to beat cycling's hour record holder Tony Rominger of Switzerland, 1970 World Cup sides and who scored more than 1,200 goals during his playing career, second on 144 points. Swimmer Alexander Popov of Russia, the 100 metres freestyle said he wanted to promote sport among young world record holder, was third with 137 people. He also wanted to create competitions involving Brazil with African countries and its neighbours in South America and said

#### Ostersund steps in for St he would back campaigns to hring the 2004 Olympic games to Rio De Janeiro and the 2006 World Cup finals to Brazil. Petersburg

GENEVA (R) — Ostersund in Sweden will take over two World Cup Nordic skiing cross country races called off in Petersburg, Russia. ADELAIDE (AFP) — German teenager sion reported Monday. The report, quoting Hendrik Dreekmann beat second seed Wayne an International Ski Federation statement, said a women's 30-km race would be staged on January 7 and a men's race over the same distance the following day. year-old, who reached the French Open distance the following day. quarter-finals last year, raced to an easy 7-6 (8/6) 6-2 win over the world number 12 from ivic to take over Fenerbahce

South Africa, displaying an impressive array of groundstrokes and discipline. Former ANKARA (R) - Croation Tamislav Ivic is to world number one Jim Courier overcame an take over as coach of Turkish first division early fright to beat the experienced Jakob side Fenerbahce, the club said on Monday. A Hlasek 7-6 (7/2) 6-1. The Swiss player was Fenerbahce official said Ivic, former technical forced to qualify because he forgot lodge an adviser at French first division side Monaco, entry form. "It was a tough match for me would join the club at a training camp on because he had three matches under his belt Tuesday after signing a contract. Fenerbahce to get used to the halls and the conditions," sacked German coach Holger Osieck in Desaid two-time Australian Open winner cember for failing to pull the team out of a Courier.

# floors United States

of tennis history Tuesday when they beat the United States 2-1 to reach the semifinals of the Hopman Cup.

Davenport had been seeded to face the Czech Republic in the last four, but were struggling from the moment Davenport crashed 6-0, 6-4 to Medvedev in the opening

Reneberg and Medvedev produced a high-class men's singles encounter which included two tie-breaks, before the world number 15 finally ensured Ukraine's moment of glory with a 6-7, 7-6, 6-3 victory.

almost played my perfect match... in the end I was incky because he had two break points in the final set," Reneberg could scarcely believe the outcome after producing what he felt was one of the best performances of

his eight-year professional career. But the American cause had already been badly undermined by world number six Davenport's startling defeat to Medvedeva, ranked a modest 57th on the computer.

The towering Davenport appeared leaden-footed and out of sorts as Medvedeva raced into a 6-0, 5-1 lead and a brief second set rally was never going to save her.
"I didn't expect it to be so easy," admitted Medvedeva.
"But I knew I had a chance to win and I also played one of

my best matches."

Medvedev gave his elder sister a good chance of beating Jana Novotna in Thursday's semifinal, even though the Czech Republic have a daunting record in the competition. The defending champions' 2-1 victory over hosts Australia took them to the last four for the sixth time in the seven-year history of the event, yet Petr Korda had to struggle before he completed a 2-6, 6-3, 7-6 win over the fit-again Pat Cash.

"The way I served in the first set, I thought I was going to lose 6-1, 6-2," said Korda, whose ranking slipped from five to 18 during an injury-hit 1994. As it turned out, Cash was his sixth successive singles scalp at the Hopman Cup where he has been imbeaten for the past two years. Both Korda and Novotna were playing their first competitive match for several weeks. Novotna's intended

end-of-year break was spoilt by a prolonged bout of fin.
But she was not required to over-exert herself against
Kristine Radford, however, winning 6-3, 6-3 in 69 minutes.

PERTH (R) - The brother-sister combination of Andrei Medvedev and Natalia Medvedeva carned Ukraine a slice

The American team of Richey Reneberg and Lindsay

It was the first time any team from the former Soviet Union had reached the semifinals of the mixed team tournament, where Medvedev was keen to do well after defaulting through injury last year.

"I don't know how people will react in Ukraine, but we are both very proud," said Medvedev. "I personally think I

hard during the Christmas holidays," she said. "I knew I swam a good time but I did not realise it was a record until the time went up.

Volker's colleague Franziska Van Almsick also showed explosive form, completing a win double in the 50 and 200 metres freestyle events.
The 16-year-old German

star, clocked 25.11 seconds for the 50 metres and one minute 57.02 in the 200. But the first leg of the seven leg world cup series was devalued by the abs-ence of the drug-tainted Chinese and the power-house squads from the Un-ited States, Australia and Russia

The reason given in Beijing for the withdrawal of the Chinese, seven of whose swimmers were ban-ned after their Asiau Games successes in October, was that they were too

Swimmers from America, Australia and Russia were missing because of training commitments in their own countries.

## Paris-Dakar Rally Saby wins 1st stage

ER RACHIDIA, Morocco three positions in the overall (AFP) — Bruno Saby won standings with first stage win-the first African stage of the ner Timo Salonen, the for-10,000 kilometres Paris- mer world rally champion, in Dakar rally for Missibishi the lead from Lartigue and but Citroen retain overall control after two

Morning fog shrouded the start and Saby, the 1993 champion, won a shortened special stage in his Pajero in 2hr 29min 24sec from two other Frenchmen, team-mate Jean-Pierre Fontenay, 25sec behind, and last year's win-ner, Pierre Lartigue in a Cit-

Competitors who had arrived overnight by ferry from Spain were forced to drive into the Moroccan desert in convoy in the fog-bound morning which forced the organisers to cut 30 kilometres off the 255km spe-

cial timed section. Citroen hold to the first January 15.

tour-times Dakar Vatanen third.

American Danny Laporte led the motorcycles nome in 2hr 45min 32sec. Laporte, who couldn't find spon-sorship at home for his pri-vate Yamaha, is riding for the Russians who stumped up the cash.

He was followed in by Jordi Arcarons of Spain, half a minute adrift on his Cagiva. Heinz Kinigadner of Austria, on a KTM, was third, retaining the overall lead after his victory in the first stage.

The third stage, 576km from here to Ouarzazate, inclues a 405km timed section on hard rocky tracks. The 14-stage rally ends in Senegal

20

#### GOREN BRIDGE

V 52 V 53 2 V 53 2 V 51 2 V 51 0 2 V 51 0 97 V 8.54 V 1 10 97 V 8.54 V 1 10 84 V 2 4 84 SOUTH TAKQ3

The bidding.
South West North Rest
3 NT Page Page Page 3 NT. Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Jack of 
The wonders of bridge never
cesse to smarn us. On this deal,
declarer made a clever play for one
reason and infilled the contract
when the compensation far exceeded espectations.
With 25 points and a balanced
hand, South's textbook three-notrump opening bid finds no ergument from this department. Nobody
had anything further to contribute
to the section.

· Kas • KQJ in

Tel.: 675571

STRANGER THAN FICTION West led the top of the heart se-quence and declarer could count eight tricks, once the see of clubs quence and deciner could count eight tricks, once the see of clubs was forced out. The minth would have to come from diamonds one way or another, either by finding a fortunate he of the cards and guessing the position, or by guile.

Declarer decided to opt for the latter. After winning the first trick in hand, South promptly led the king of diamonds in the hope that the defander with the ace would hold up to prevent declarer from setting up and running dummy's long suit. That idea went up in smoke when West wasted no time in grabbing the ace, but help arrived from an inexpected source—Best dropped the queen!

Declarer won the heart continuation and forced out the ace of choic and the rest of the tricks were there for the taking. Declarer could bring in the whole diamond suit by simply lineasing, as cheaply as possible, each time diamonds were led toward dummy.

dummy.

As so often happens, good technique was rewarded. Not only was the contract made, but two unexpected overtricks rolled in as wall.

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PHILADELPHIA laghda & Farooq Al Fishawi RAGHBAT ows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Tel.: 634144

Tel.: 699238 PLAZA Julia Roberts/Nick Noite I Love Trouble

> Shows 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 The Lion King

Tel.: 677420 CONCORD CONCORD 47 Sylvester Stallone/Sharon Stone..

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## aga Couthard move could end Mansell's career

restant back to tarks (AFP) — David ight aris (AFP) — David the local to the latest with a season's world Formula to the championship, the British than the championship, the British than a season's world Formula to the championship, the British than a season's world Formula to the championship, the British to the season's world Formula to the championship the British to the season's world Formula to the championship the British to the season's world Formula to the championship the British to the season's world Formula to the British to the season's world Formula to the season's world Formula to the British to the British to the season's world Formula to the British to the British to the season's world Formula to the British to the season's world Formula to the British to the British to the season's world Formula to the British to the Britis

ansell's career to an end. e 41-year-old former world ampion broke off from espeting in the IndyCar ies in the United States to ive for Williams in four is last year.

At one point it looked as if win at Adelaide in the stralian Grand Prix last wember would clinch his ice in the Williams' team. But Coulthard forced the mk Williams into taking his option on the 23-year-1 Scot by signing a contract McLaren which the motor ing authority, FIA, effec-

dy ruled invalid. He has a great future ad of him," Williams said

McLaren, Benetton and rrari have all distanced mselves from Mansell and looks as if the 1992 world campion will not find ther drive

Benetton last week dismis d reports that Mansell ald be driving for them nt season. Team president essandro Benetton said fel-" Briton Johnny Herbert

)NDON (AFP) - Alan

earer notched his second

at Blackburn six points ar at the top of the English

mier League Monday —

only after they were given the England striker took

tally of goals of 23 as

them were forced to

from behind for a 4-2

triumph on an Arctic

e millionaire club now

nchester United, who are

home to Conventry on

nglish bookmaker Wil-

I Hill has now installed

parites to win the com-

Two of Shearer's goals

first after 14 minutes

- ac from the penalty spot,

st Ham goalkeeper Ludek

-3nt Harry Redknapp's

unmers — without a win

ough Tony Cottee's sixth

al in five games in the 33rd nute and look the more

more mposed side in the first

id when Julian Dicks

wred in the 58th minute.

: But any hopes West Ham

likely win came crashing

red with a free-kick in the

atch and Shearer then

is, the latter from the

-laity spot after 79 minutes.

We were sloppy at times

I when they went 2-1 up it

But we showed character

spirit by coming back to the three points." hearer paid tribute to the

a midfield work of West

They looked quite

gerous which is a credit to

m because not many

ns have come here and

Iwo games in three days and work and it showed a

the kick up the backside

wn when Graeme Le Saux

it minute to level the

ned on the style to smash ane his second and third

s had of pulling off an

They then moved into a 2-1

the standings with 52

made. >2 mits, six clear of champions

Stage see Saturday, as 13-8 on

klosko.

mar e

ÇGE

will almost certainty line up alongside world champion Michael Schumacher although an announcement will not be made until the end of January.

Ferrari - one of Mansell's former teams -- have also stated there is no place for him, leaving McLaren and a link-up with Mika Hakkinen as the only remaining possi-

But McLaren boss Ron Dennis has never been a great fan of Mansell. Coulthard is believed to have signed a contract with

Williams shortly hefore christmas which should net him around 500,000 pounds from his first full season on

He finished eighth in the drivers' championship last son after competing in only half of the 16 races. With Coulthard partnering Hill, it will be the first time a

ing formula one team has started a new season with an all-British lineup since Damon's father, the late Graham Hill, partnered Jim Clark at Lotus in 1968.

Coulthard drove Formula Three and F3000 for the Paul Stewart Racing team in 1992-93 when he came under former triple world champion Jackie Stewart's wing.

### Maradona may be jailed

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) — Former Argentine foothall star Diego Maradona violated a conrt sentence when he took a vacation to Cuba and could be jailed when he returns, prosecutor Alejandro Caride said.

Caride said Maradona failed to notify judge Julio Campora that he planned to leave Argentina, as required by his sentence for shooting an air rifle at journalists out-

side his house last summer. Maradona was sentenced to four years in prison for the shooting, but the sentence was reduced on Dec. 19 to a \$20,000 fine and a promise that he would not leave his house for more than 24 hours

without notifying the judge.

This week Caride asked Campora to revoke the suspension of Maradona's prison term. If his request is accepted the judge could order that Maradona be arrested upon his return to Argentina.

Marcelo Permonen, a lawyer representing one of the journalists, said: "He did not respect his agreement with the court, for this the prosecutor requested that his exemption from prison be re-voked."

# Shearer grabs three goals

fused to say Rovers were now on course for their first title in more than half a century. "At one stage last season Manchester United were 16 points ahead and to say we're pulling away now we are six ahead is ridiculous.

"I think people are starting to get excited prematurely but I would rather be here than at the bottom and think we are safe from the drop

Robbie Fowler remains hard on Shearer's goalscoring heels after netting two goals in title-chasing Liverpool's 4-0 win over Norwich, their fourth victory in as many holiday-period

The England Under-21 striker's double boosted his tally for the season to 22 and gave teenage goalkeeper about the game's fickle for-

Marshall, the hero in Norwich's 2-1 success over Newcastle on Saturday in his first match as the mjured Bryan Gunn's deputy, had a torrid

First John Scales headed in from a corner after 14 minutes. Then Fowler, latching on to Ian Rush's pass, put the ball between Marshall's legs

in the 38th minute. .. He scored again two miuntes into the second half and Rush completed the ront

seven minutes from time. Andy Dibble saved Ruel Fox's penalty as Newcastle

as Blackburn win bit at times, but we finished slipped out of the top four very strongly which is pleas-ing," added Shearer, who rewith a 0-0 draw at home to Manchester City, while Aston Villa and Leeds were

> stalemate at Villa Park. Nottingham Forest moved past Newcastle into fourth place in the standings when Gary Bull — deputising for the injured Stan Collymore — grabbed the only goal in their 1-0 win over Crystal

also involved in a goalless

A Matt Le Tissier penalty in the 70th minute ended Sheffield Wednesday's hopes of a 100 per cent holiday sequence as they drew 1-1 with Southampton.

The Hillsborough side were struggling near the relegation zone just seven days ago, until an explosive 10oal burst eased manager Trevor Francis' worries.

They looked on course for another victory after Graham. Hyde's second goal in two skipper Le Tissier equalised after Neal Heaney was tripped in the box.

Wimbledon, unbeaten in six matches, defeated Everton 2-1 thanks to two goals in the first eight minutes from Mick Harford.

Paul Rideout pulled one back after 17 minutes with his third goal in two games, but the Merseysiders failed to

Ipswich crushed Leicester 4-1 to swap places at the bottom of the league. Chris Kiwomya scored two goals, with league debutant Adam Tanner and Frank Yallop doing the rest of the damage.

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## Cleveland Cavaliers take slow road to success

CLEVELAND (AFP) —

Call it slow, call it frustrating, call it downright dull.
The Cleveland Cavaliers are happy to be riding the National Basketball Association's longest winning streak thanks to their tortoise-like offense.
"You can call it ugly or

pretty or whatever you want," said guard Bohby Phils. "We just go out each and every game and try to

The Cavs have done just that in their last 11 games, equalling the longest winning streak in the cinh's history and opening a twogame gap at the top of the Eastern Confernce Central Division.

Their record of 20-8 trails only Orlando (23-6) and Phoenix (21-7) in the entire NBA, and their streak is the longest in the league this season.

They haven't done it by taking advantage of the more forgiving three-point line, or new rules designed to encourage attacking

Instead, coach Mike Fratello has sent the Cavaliers in almost the opposite direction, playing methodical offence backed up by a rock-solid defence to produce some of the lowest scores seen since the 24second sbot clock was introduced in 1954.

The system makes a virtue of what could otherwise be considered the Cavaliers' higgest weakness: their lack of firepower.

"We don't really have a go-to guy we can hand it to every night," said forward Tyrone Hill. "It's a team oriented game. We're a very unselfish team, and I think that's when we're at our best, when we look for each other, even if it's a slow tempo game.'

That teamwork is evident in the spread of honours.

ers have led the Cavaliers in scoring in their last 11

games.
"The thing I like about this team more than anything is its workmanlike attitude, that we're going to leave it all out on the court," said All-Star guard Mark Price. "It doesn't matter to us who it takes to get it done."

Hill, one of the NBA's leading rebounders, is so focused on the team effort that he asked Fratello not to put him on the All-Star ballot this season.

"You kind of get caught up in that, and teammates start looking at you dif-ferently." Hill said. "I just like the way it is. I'm getting paid pretty good money to do what I'm doing, and I'm happy with

Since the streak started on December 9, the Cavs have held four opponents to fewer than 80 points.

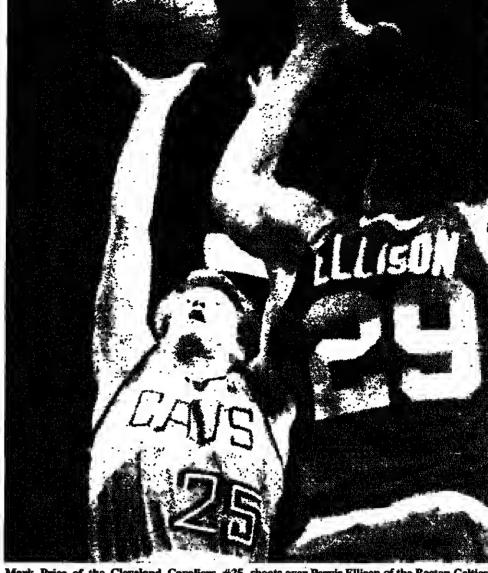
One of those was the Washington Bullets, who lost 91-75 last Wednesday at Cleveland's new Gund Arena, which was sold out for the third straight time. While the slow-down

offense has been grabbing attention, Washington's Calbert Cheaney said defence was the real key to Cleveland's success. "They just play hard-nosed defence," Cheaney

said. "They've got a good rotation on their defence." That very fact may con-tribute to Cleveland's sense

of humility. "When you look back and realise that you had to play at Chicago, at New York, at New Jersey, those are tough places to win

"It hasn't been like we've been facing a lot of teams that we expect to win against. We can't look at



Mark Price of the Cleveland Cavaliers #25 shoots over Pervis Ellison of the Boston Celtics

(AFP photo)

any team like it's one we expect to beat." And with Fratello relying on strong contributions from so many players, keeping them all healthy is a hig concern,
"The only thing that will hurt us is if somebody gets hurt," Hill said. "If Mark Price or Hot Rod Williams

goes down, we'll really be

furting.
'After the All-Star hreak, it's going to he tough. We're just trying to build a cushion in case that

## Australians question cost of rescuing yachtswoman

two international conven-

national Maritime Organisa-

tion, the 1974 International

Convention for the Safety of

Life at Sea (SOLAS) and the

1979 Convention on Mari-

The conventions create an

Autissier said after the

obligation to save life first,

then quibble about the costs

news conference she was sur-

time Search and Rescue.

SYDNEY (R) — Officials of an around-the-world yacht race Tuesday defended the rescue of French yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier as the Australian media questioned the estimated A\$1 million (\$775,000) cost of the

operation. The cost of not launching the rescue is a human life, an angry organiser of the told reporters at a Sydney

news conference. Autissier was winched from her dismasted yacht last Sunday after huge sub-Antarctie seas and gales rol-led her 18-metre (54-foot) yacht, the Ecureuil Poiton Charentes II, 900 Nautical

miles south of Australia. The 38-year-old yachtswoman was heading for Sydney on the second leg of the solo round-the-world race when she set off distress beacons last Wednesday in the perilous area known to sailors as the roaring forties. ment with nations that have

Antissier's rescue took four days after she was initially sighted and involved an Australian navy frigate, air-force Hercules and Orion aircraft and a navy helicopter. Rescue officials have estimated the cost of the rescue

at \$1 million. "Maybe I don't cost one million dollar," Autissier told the packed news conference, but added she thought Australia made the right deci-

sion to rescue her. The Age newspaper said in an editorial on Tuesday that race organisers should pay for Antissier's rescue, not the Australian taxpayer, because the risks she took could be

But BOC officials said Australia was obliged under international conventions to

rescue sailors off its coast. "Australia is party of the United Nations and the United Nations has an agree-

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prised by the cost questions. "I have never heard in any other emergency situation

questions like that," she told coastlines ... and they take reporters.
"It surprised me a lot beresponsibility for search and rescue of sailors off their coast," - McConnell said.

cause it is a part\_of the sea story, it is a part of the sea Australia's search and rescue responsibilities stem from life, to go to rescue people at any cost because normally tions established by the Inter-

human life has no cost," she added.

"I think it is a very bad story and I don't think people that run this story are great people. Everybody has to rescue everybody," she said.

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# Peres: Syria deadlock should not halt peace

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel, upset by Arah support for Syria in deadlocked talks with the Jewish state, said on Tuesday normalisation of relations with Arabs must not be conditional on moving towards peace with Damascus.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres arrived in Cairo on Tuesday for talks with Egyptian President Hosni Muberak on issues ranging from bilateral ties to Palestinian and Syrian peace deals.

Mr. Peres was later to head his delegation in talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the occupied West Bank. Bnt Mr. Peres' main concern was to seek clarifications on the summit in Alexandria last week between Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arahia, which gave unusually strong support to Damascus in peace talks with Israel. Mr. Peres told a news con-

ference that Mr. Moharak "said the purpose of the (Arab) meeting was not to stop the peace process or to slow it down. ... on the contrary, to promote it. Egypt feels as we do that time has come to make peace with

Mr. Peres said be understood there was no intention "to condition one move upon another move. Whenever we ean make headway, we

Kabul's security chief said

Tuesday any resignation hy Afghan President Burhanud-

din Rahhani would not put at

risk recent improvements in

the policing of the capital. With Mr. Rahhani ex-

pected to transfer power in

the next week. General

Yunus Qanoom, head of the

security commission, said

security forces were indepen-

dent of the rival politicians.

Analysts said any political

change would not alter the

military balance of power in

represents the state, not any

personality," Gen. Qanooni

told a press conference at the

defence ministry.

He assured that the Kabul

security forces' official duties

would not be affected by

political changes such as the

anticipated resignation of

Mr. Rabbani whose term of

Although the president's

joh has become largely a

symbolic position, the va-

rious factions in Afghanistan

have still not worked out who

will take over the under what

But the general explained:

"A system exists which is not

affected by a change at the

United Nations special en-

voy Mahmond Mestiri re-

turned to Pakistan from

Kabul Monday after talks

with Mr. Rabhani. The peace

envoy said he hoped the pres-

ident would transfer power in

The security commission is

troops of the Kabul garrison,

the National Security Depart-

ment (formerly the commun-

the next seven to 10 days.

office ran ont on Dec. 28.

"The security commission

the capital.

conditions.

should do it in the direction of peace."

The summit angered Israel because it implicity promised Syria that Arab countries would not fully develop relations with Israel before Syria struck its own deal, diplomats

The Israel-Syria talks are stuck on the question of Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which have been in Israeli control since the 1967 Middle East war. An Israeli source said his

country feared Damascus was dragging Cairo into adopting a hardline stance towards Israel and delaying normalisation of ties between them. Mr. Mubarak, seeking to calm Israeli told Israeli jour-

nalists: "There was no plan directed against Israel or at slowing down the normalisation of relations with Israel." Asked whether Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had relayed any new sugges-

tion during the summit to move talks forward, Mr. Mnbarak said: "President Assad wants peace and we encourage this attitude ... we hope we can reach something by the middle of this year, God willing." On normalising relations

between Arah countries and Israel, Mr. Mubarak said: "Each country has the right to normalise relations with Israel and we do not object."

ist's Khad secret police) and

the regular police, which

were formerly called the

security forces are controlled

by the defence ministry,

Both garrison and national

Rabbani resignation will

not alter power balance

Sarandoy.

Amr Musa said the Mnbarak-Peres meeting touched on another sensitive issue, the signing of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Egypt, which in 1979 became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel, has asked Arabs not to sign an extension of the treaty unless Israel signed,

Cairo has orged Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons, to sign but Israel says it will not do so as long as it faces a potential nuclear threat from enemies such as Syrla, Iraq and Iran.

Mr. Musa hristled when an Israeli reporter told him the nuclear issue was causing tension in relations.

"You have to learn that to differ with yon is not necessarily to be an enemy of you. You bave to accept that we differ with Israel on this question ... to think that whenever we say 'no', or disagree, this means that we are against you, is wrong. You have to change your mind and atti-tude. This attitude is bad."

Mr. Peres also denied his country was seeking to dominate the Arabs economically as it makes peace with its neighbours, and emphasised the need for cooperation.

'Israel is interested in being reintegrated in the re-

gion. We want to reintegrate ourselves not as a leader or a dominating party," he told a conference held by the U.S.-Egyptian Chamber of Com-

Mr. Peres dismissed as nonsense" accusations from a participant that Israel wanted to dominate the region. "It makes me smile,"

"I don't understand the expression Arab economics. There is no Arah economy or Israeli economy," he added. "A modern economy is not based on domination, but on competition," he argued,

saving Middle East countries bave to choose between a competitive economy based on rules and a deficient one. 'Mr. Peres also made a lengthy plea for an economic policy that would enable the Middle East to compete with

other regions like Asia. The Israeli minister called for cutting Middle east military spending, which he said amounts to \$10 billion a year. and using the savings for de-

velopment. He also pleaded for the return of the region's capital invested abroad, which he estimated at \$600 billion, and for setting up new infrastructure adapted to peace.

He urged efforts to save the mainly desert region's water, 80 per cent of which be said is wasted.

## Peace process in crisis - PLO

(Continued from page 1)

under last year's peace deal.

whose de facto head is Mr. Rabbani's military strongman Ahmad Shah Masoud. The police come under the interior ministry headed by Munshi Abdul Majid who used to belong to Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami another site. Jewish settlers said they

Summarising progress made by the commission, Gen. Qanooni admitted that because of "lack of experience" some mistakes had been made. But he said there has been an appreciable im-provement in Kabul security

overali. Mr. Mestiri told a news conference in Kabul on Monday that he was optimistic about the outcome of his attempt to bring peace between warring Afghan fac-

"The transfer of power will take place soon," Kabul radio quoted Mr. Mestiri as saying after talks with embattled President Rabbani and

Mr. Mestiri said on Sunday he would be making specific proposals to the president.

He said on Monday be would also travel to other parts of Afghanistan and appealed to the belligerents to observe a ceasefire until the transfer of power.

U.N. sources said Mr. Mestiri, a former Tunisian a joint hody comprising foreign minister, was likely to meet Mr. Hekmatyar soon in the eastern Afghan town of

"Continuation of this official policy now is bound to destroy the political process because it cannot be accepted that this policy would go on and at the same time the peace process continues," Mr. Agha said, calling the

move "dangerous." Al Khader villagers, in a statement in Palestinian newspapers on Tuesday, said both land plots belonged to them and added: "We utterly reject moving settlements to

were willing to consider Monday's compromise but warned the government that work on the new site must start immediately. Mr. Ben-Eliezer told

Israel's army radio he supported the government's de-cision with reservations. He said he thought the Palestimans would see no difference between the two hilltops.

Dr. Shaath said he was not satisfied with the Israeli move and insisted the talks here would tackle the extension of settlements - along with the police killings and restrictions on PLO activities in Arab

"It is important to have stopped the settlement that had been started in Ephrat but what needs to be done is to really abandon the whole idea of building new settlements or thickening old ones," he said.

"What needs to be done is to have a total and complete halt of settlement activities."

"The expansion of Israeli settlements and the failure to resolve this problem will create a crisis in the peace process," Dr. Shaath warned

Continued Jewish settlement contravened the peace accords signed with Israel. which called for the status quo to be maintained until negotiations on a final agreement begin in May 1996.

The issue of the 120,000 settlers on the West Bank is at the heart of the deadlock on extending self-rule. Israel is meanwhile to pre-

sent the PLO with a long list of Palestinian "violations" of the antonomy accords at the Cairo talks, the daily Haaretz

Mr. Peres would accuse the Palestinians of failing to hand over a list of all the Palestinian police working in the self-rule areas of Gaza and Jericho, the Israeli newspaper reported. Talks between Israel and

the PLO over the next stage of autonomy - the staging of Paiestinian elections originally scheduled for July — have been deadlocked over an army withdrawal from West Bank towns and villages.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, some 500 Palestinians demonstrated against the construction of a security fence around the Jewish settlement of Ariel. Waving Palestinian flags,

the demonstrators marched from the neighbouring village of Saifit and gathered on a hill before dispersing peace-The villagers say the fence

encloses plots of land which belong to them, while the Ariel authorities argue that the fence is to be built on public land granted to the settlement by the state. Some 13,000 Israelis live in

Ariel, which covers 3,000 hectares of land. The government recently anthorised the building of 140 extra housing units there.

## Algerian group said to have warned Germans

HAMBURG, Germany France for alleged complicity (Agencies) — Algerian ex- with the Algiers government. tremists have set a Jan. 7 deadline for Germany's embassy personnel in Algiers to leave Algeria, the weekly magazine Stern reported in its issue to be published

Thursday.

A spokesman for the German foreign ministry in Bonn would not confirm or deny the report, saying it concerned security matters. Germany cut hack its embassy staff in Algiers after a surge of violence against

to topple the military backed government in Algiers. Stern said German security officials were taking the Islamic threat, contained in a German-language letter, very

whether he was a known

Only one of the four hi-

Benguettaf, 25, also from Al

The four hijackers, who seized the Airbus with more

than 200 passengers on board

at Algiers airport on Dec. 24,

were killed by crack French

intervention troops at

Marseille airport two days

Algerian extremists mean-

while reiterated their declara-

tion of war on France, but

denied a threat made last

week to move the conflict

onto the French mainland.

The Islamic Salvation

Army (AIS) said it was vic-

tim of a misinformation cam-

paign by "suspect parties"

who wanted to damage its

se. The threat was n

in a statement transmitted to

AFP by the AIS eastern com-

"Our declaration of war on

France is legal," said an AIS

communique published by

the London daily Al Hayat,

reiterating an editorial pub-

lished in an AIS newsletter

on Friday, declaring war on

**NEWS IN BRIEF** 

BAGHDAD (AFP) - The family of Iraqi former secret

service chief Wasic Samarrai, who joined the opposition last month, on Tuesday called for his death, in an announcement published Tuesday in Iraq's official newspapers. General Samarrai's brothers and other relatives, in a message to President Saddam Hussein published in the

press here, said that they have "disowned" him and that

press here, said that they have "disowned" min and man they approved the "shedding of his blood for having betrayed the nation." Gen. Samarrai had "joined agents on a foreign payroll," in a reference to the Iraqi National Congress (INC), a coalition of several opposition groups based in the Kurdish-held areas of northern Iraq. Gen.

Samarrar's family renewed its allegiance to Presiden Saddam and its "full readiness to defend the nation."

U.N. chief wants to revamp peacekeeping

NEW YORK (AFP) — U.N. peackeeping operations should be streamlined to make them more efficient and allow the world body to focus on long-range social issues, the U.N. chief said in an interview in Tuesday's New York

Times. U.N. Secretary General Bontros Ghali said he planned to explain to the Security Council on Jan. 5 why

some peacekeeping operations have failed and others have been successful. On this year's 50th anniversary of the United Nations, he told he daily the wanted to update his

1992 agenda for peace and "project a new image of the United Nations after the end of the cold war, dealing with

israeli diplomat's wife killed in Nigeria

LAGOS (AFP) - The wife of an Israeli diplomat posted

here was shot dead by bandits in southwestern Nigeria; the Israeli embassy said Tuesday. Shira Arnon was killed near Akure, capital of the state of Ondo as she was travelling in

a car with her husband, David Arnon, and a Finnish couple

on Monday afternoon, the embassy stated. The two Finns were wounded, one seriously, it said. Steps have been taken to repatriate Arnon's body, the embassy added,

Opposition urges probe Bahrain clashes

NICOSIA (AFP) - An exiled Bahraini opposition leader

called Tuesday for an international commission to be set

upto investigate clashes last month between security forces and Shiite Muslims. Sheikh Mohammad Ali Mahfuz, head

of the banned Islamic Front for the Liberation of Bahrain,

"asked the international community to set up a commission

of enquiry to end human rights violations" in Bahrain.
"Our people who are struggling to win their legitimate rights will brave the regime's barbaric repression and their

uprising will continue until their demands are met," he said

in a statement received in Cyprus

the problems of tomorrow."

without giving further details.

Family calls for iraqi defector to die

mittee Thursday. .

Harrach.

foreigners by militants trying

seriously.
Other Western embassies Yemeni Parliament Speaker Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar played down the had received similar threats. In Paris, French authorities on Tuesday identified a third incident in remarks quoted by the Saudi Press Agency of the four hijackers behind overnight. But the diplo-mats said Deputy Foreign Minister Abdul Ali Abdul the hostage drama on board an Air France jet last week, judicial sources said. Rahman on Monday He was named as Salim briefed diplomats from the five permanent members of Layadi, 24, from Konba in Algeria. It was not clear the Security Council on the

border clash, which he said occurred on Sunday. member of the Armed Islamic Group (GIA), the radical group which claimed respon-sibility for the hijacking. Mr. Ahdul Rahman charged that Saudi forces attacked Al Buga, a northeastern town close to the disputed border. jackers remains unidentified.

Yemen

One Western diplomat said his embassy was told The head of the hijack team was named soon after the by another senior Yemeni drama ended by the Algerian official that three people were killed and five were interior minister as Abdullah Yahia, from the Al Harrach wounded. region of the former French He said Abdul Rahman

claimed that Saudi military units attacked a border "There is no way to (im-

mediately) varify if military units or tribesmen were involved in the clash," he The official purpose of

the meeting with the en-Britain, France, Russia and China was to inform them of the clash. "I guess Yemen wants

the five permanent members to speak to the Saudis to find out what is happening and tell them to Despite the rise in ten-

sion in the past few months and Yemeni claims that Saudi Arabia was building up its border force, diplomats say Sanaa is eager not and is undertaking efforts to narrow differences.

Yemen is "anxious not to play the incident up, play things quietly and seriously wants to improve ties," one

Asked if Saudi Arabia was massing troops along the border, he said: "I believe that is the case ... (Abdul Rahman) claimed that Saudi Arabia was boosting its troops along the border." The Saudi Press Agency

quoted Sheikh Ahmar as denying in a radio inter-view 'reports quoting view 'reports quoting Yemeni officials accusing Saudi Arabia of penetrating a border area."
"He said that what hap-

pened was a kind of misunderstanding and not a penetration in ... Yemen's Sadaa province," the official Saudi agency added. An official Yemeni state-

ment issued in Sanaa on Sunday night said an attack was mounted deep inside Yemeni territory.

It described the alleged attack as new aggression, and said "Hawks" within the Saudi leadership were trying to derail reconciliation efforts by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Sandi King

Mr. Ahmar told the British Broadcasting Corpora-tion (BBC) there were "elements trying to harm relations between the two states," adding that efforts were under way to end the two countries' differences.

The speaker last week visited Saudi Arabia, where he met the king and the crown prince during the first visit to the kingdom by a Yemeni official since ties deteriorated over border

In December, Yemen accused its northern neigh-bour of violating its border by erecting observation posts and building roads in tortier areas including Sauda. Diplomats in Sansa said three Yemeni officers were killed in a border clash on Dec. 7.

Several rounds of ministerial talks in the past two years have failed to settle the border dispute, which dates from the 1930s.

with the Algiers government.
But it denied supporting
the threat made in the AIS statement Thursday. "Waging the war in France has never been mentioned in publications of our mujahedeen," it said.

"The mujahedeen have taken notice of a suspect information campaign simed at tamishing the image of the Islamic Front and at embroiling it in political complica-tions by distorting the edito-rial," it added.

"The communique attri-

buted to the AIS eastern committee was published by suspect parties having no ties to the mujahedeen and which wanted to harm the Front's interests and torpedo its ac-tions," it concluded. Last week's editorial, in

the Al Feth Al Moubine (crushing victory) newsletter, said that "war against France has become a legal duty under Islamic Shaira law. It said the French govern-

ment had been shown to be in collaboration with the Algiers regime through the assault by French special forces on the hijacked Air France Airbus in Marseille. The AIS statement said:

"The AIS groups are capable of hitting France on its own territory and the coming days will show, with God's help. their capacity to strike the unbeliever in his own home." Meanwhile an official from

the Islam. Salvation Front (FIS), of which the AIS is the armed wing, said in an interview in a Paris newspaperthat waging a violent cam-paign on the French main-and would be a "strategic Three days later a second member was identified by Algerian officials using fing-erprints obtained by French police. He was Makhlouf error." "It would be stupid and a

strategic error to extend the conflict into other countries," said Brahim Younessi, an advisor to Sheikh Abdnibáki Sahraoui, a founding member of the FIS, in an interview with the Catholic La "The FIS has no interest in

making war in France and has no interest in extending, either bere or elsewhere in Europe, a conflict which must remain intra-Algerian,"

And he directly attacked the Armed Islamic Group saying they saw terrorism as an end in itself.

'Whereas the Islamic Salvation Army sees it as a way to bring power to the negotiating table. We are convinced that the solution is political and we want it to be peaceful," he added.

The AIS has spearheaded the fundamentalist insurgency against the Algerian govcriment since the army cancelled January 1992 elections which the FIS was poised to

#### Man takes ex-wife. hostage to avenge uncaring world

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese man, bitter at an uncaring world, held his 70-year-old ex-wife at knifepoint for 21 hours in the hospital where she worked as a nurse, police said Tuesday. Masaru Nakagawa, 62, barricaded himself in a changing room in the Tokyo hospital with the woman, who divorced him about a year ago. Holding a knife to her chest, he shouted to police that he was prepared to die. He eventually released her and gave himself up early Tuesday. Police are still investigating the motive, but Mr. Nakagawa, told then he became angry after he called his brother's house to say Happy New Year and his ister-in-law slammed the phone down on him. "I wanted to get rid of my dis-content," he said. "My wife left me and the rest of the world is treating me coldly."

#### **British police** on drugs raid stuck in lift

LONDON (R) — Nine Brit-ish police officers on a drugs raid failed to reach their target after they squeezed into a lift made for eight and it ground to a halt. The police were trapped for 45 minutes in the lift in Conventry, central England, before their cries for help were heard, the Sun newspaper reported Tuesday. "I told them I would get the police and they shouted: 'We are the bloody police — get the fire brigade'," said Eddié Laidle, a resident of the block of flats where the police were trapped.

#### Pentagon hacker, 16, arrested

LONDON (AFP) — London police have arrested a boy of 16 suspected of having hacked his way into the computers of the Pentagon and laid bare U.S. defence secrets, the Independent reported Tuesday. He had access to banks of data on research into ballistic missiles, warplane projects, equipment, pay, personal from agents on North Korea at the height of the crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear programme, the paper said. He then put out the details on Internet, the world-wide computerised information network with some 20 millionsubscribers, the Independent added. The U.S. Defence Department admitted last summer that unknown hackers had gained access to its data banks over some seven mouths through the Internet; to which the military information network Milnet is linked. Data had been altered, deleted or stolen, the Pentagon said. The Independent said the youth from north London had been arrested last July. He had been traced because he had stayed plugged into a U.S. defence computer for an entire night.

#### **Dubbers call off** 10-week strike PARIS (AFP) - More than

400 artists who dub foreignlanguage films and television series into French called off a strike of more than 10 weeks early Tuesday after the promiise of talks on their demands for royalities. The strike had left television companies without American cartoons. soap operas and crime series; disrupted cinema releases and deprived technical and other staff of distribution companies of work. The dubbing actors were demanding recognition of their status as creative artists, and especially the payment of royalties for repeats of their films on television or sales on videocassettes. A mediator was appointed after a judge ruled their demands legitimate and Culture Minister Jacques Toubon last month publicly backed the strikers. Talks between the two sides are set to begin Thursday. The strike meant that one film, The Band Played On, recounting the arrival of AIDS in the United States, could only be given limited release in English with sub-titles because it was dubbed into French 1: Canada. Also threatened is the latest Woody Allen movie, Bullets Over Broadway, which was scheduled for general release later this

